



Navy News

DECEMBER 1992 30p

Baby, you can drive my car

AB Lee Freeman won two cars in HMS Brave's bumper draw. Unfortunately, he can't drive!

So he sold the pair of Vauxhall Astras — here decorated by Plymouth models Sarah, Cheree and Adie. And one was snapped up by CPO Paul Eddis, who organised the raffle which this year has raised a staggering £30,000 for the Type 22 frigate's charities.

— 'cos it's no use to me . . .



Season's greetings from Navy News

FAR away from hearth and home this festive season will be HMS London, HMS Nottingham and RFA Brambleleaf (on Armilla Patrol in the Gulf); HMS Alacrity (West Indies Guard Ship) and RFA Orangeleaf; HMS Amazon and HMS Dumbarton Castle (South Atlantic); HMS Endurance (Fortaleza, Brazil); HMS Anglesey (West Patrol, Fishery Protection); and HMS Shetland (Offshore Patrol). HMS York will be relieving HMS Gloucester in the Central Mediterranean — and HMS Gloucester may be home just in time for Christmas.

The White Company

A ROYAL Navy Sea King from 845 Naval Air Sqn — for the first time in white United Nations livery — tests anti-missile decoy flares over RFA Argus as she nears the Croatian port of Split.

The Type 42 destroyer HMS Gloucester was also standing by to protect her — but the Argus's sole mission is to provide casualty evacuation in case any of the Cheshire Regiment get caught in the bitter fighting in Bosnia. She may not be used to carry troops or military supplies.

There are 90 men and 35 vehicles in the detachment from RN air station Yeovilton — all specialists in mountain and Arctic conditions and well prepared for the worst of the Balkan winter.

As a full-scale oil blockade against Serbia was begun by the multi-national flotilla of warships in the Adriatic, HMS York moved to relieve HMS Gloucester — which at the end of last month paid the first visit by an RN warship to Albania for more than 50 years, see page 3.

Diplomatic relations were severed when HMS Saumarez and HMS Volage struck mines laid by Albania during a territorial dispute with Corfu in 1946. Forty-four sailors died and Britain later confiscated Albania's gold reserves in London when Albania failed to pay compensation.

Orient ships return

ON their way home from the Orient 92 deployment (see page 29) HMS Invincible and RFA Fort Austin were diverted to search for survivors from the Danish merchantman Charm, sinking off Cape Finisterre.

Four survivors and three dead crewmen were picked up by the Dutch frigate Philips van Almonde and one injured crewman was flown to the Invincible for treatment.



POST MOVES TO GUZZ

AFTER prolonged speculation, it was announced last month that it is planned to transfer the Royal Navy's Operational Sea Training task from Portland to Devonport and to close the Portland Naval Base.

Some 1,200 naval personnel and 200 MOD civilians will continue to be based at RN air station Portland, which will remain in operation.

Under the proposals, which are subject to consultation, some 400 naval personnel would transfer to Devonport and it is estimated that nearly 500 civilian MOD posts at Portland would be affected.

At the same time proposals were announced to reduce the capacity of Portsmouth's Fleet Maintenance and Repair Organisation to that required to undertake docking and essential defect periods; assisted maintenance periods; emergency repairs and, where necessary, enhancements, and that no refitting work would be undertaken in the future.

It is expected that some 400 civilian staff would be affected by the proposals. Market testing is to take place of the remaining activities.

Operational Sea Training is planned to continue at Portland until facilities are in place at Devonport. This work should be completed as soon as possible after a final decision has been made following consultation, and at the latest by April 1996.

Pompey told 'no more refits'

"The intention is to maintain at least the same levels and standards of sea training as those currently provided in the Portland areas," it was stated for the Navy.

In the cases of both Portland and Portsmouth the Navy made clear that it recognised the many years of support and contributions of the local workforces and communities, but it also referred to factors such as the need for financial savings and overcapacity in ship repair.

In the Commons it was stated that the Portland proposals would save £70 million over the next ten years and some £11 million a year after that.

At both Portland and Portsmouth, where consultation will also take place, every effort would be made to redeploy civilian personnel locally but the scale of staff reductions was significant and redundancies must be expected.

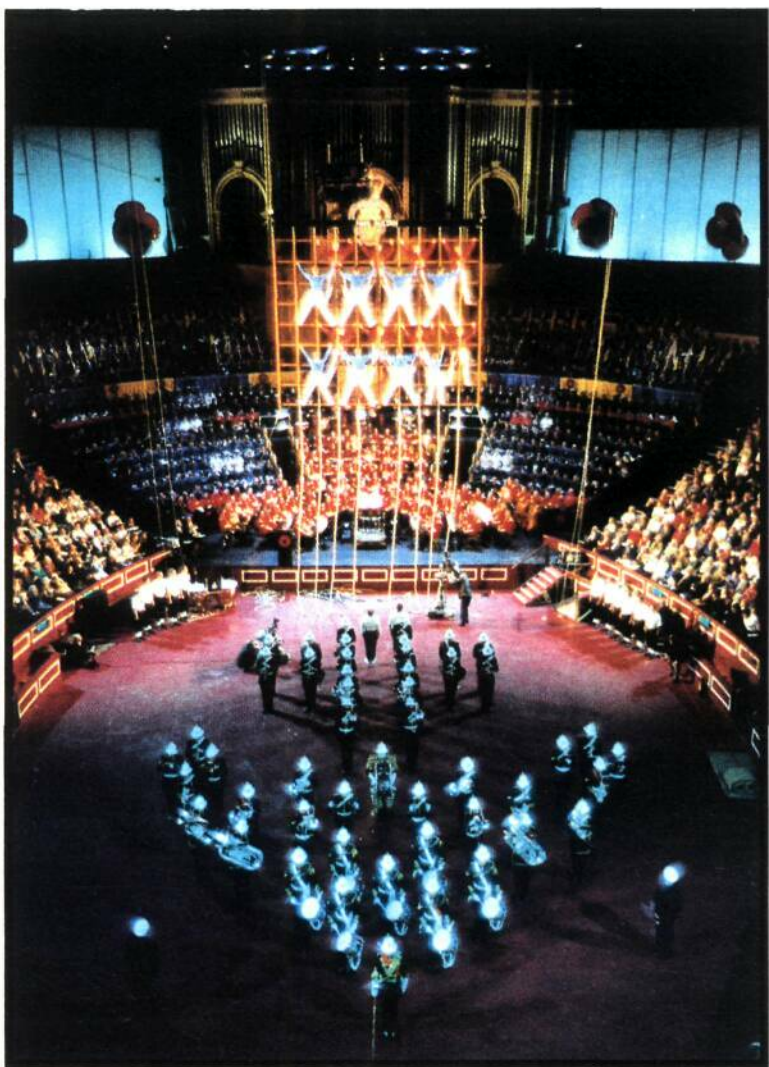
Closure of the Portland base would not affect decisions arranged earlier to rationalise the Defence Research Agency and the Sea Systems Controllerate. Portland-based RM elements would move to a new site, details of which would be announced once current studies are complete.

It was also stated that the Portland announcement did not indicate that decisions had been made on the future of the Royal dockyards and their associated naval bases. "Work continues in these areas to define the naval support infrastructure required for the 21st century."

● In 1991-92 a total of 43 RN, 17 RFA and 12 ships from NATO nations undertook a period of sea training at Portland.

Remembrance

FALLEN comrades were remembered by the Royal Navy at ceremonies and services around the world. At the Cenotaph in Whitehall the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, was among those laying wreaths, with Royal Navy and Royal Marines on parade and a large representation of naval Ex-Servicemen and women involved in the march-past.



The Navy was also much in evidence at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, where one of the highlights was the Window Ladder Display performed by 16 MEA apprentices from HMS Sultan, with musical accompaniment from the Band of the Royal Marines, Deal — a performance described by BBC TV commentator Raymond Baxter as "a faultless display".

Hong Kong

Out in Hong Kong, the Prince of Wales laid a wreath at the colony's Cenotaph during their annual Remembrance Day Service. While in Hong Kong Prince Charles officiated at the opening for Navy Days, the last to be held at HMS Tamar before the naval base is re-located at Stonecutters Island next year.

Malta G.C.

The visit to the George Cross island of Malta by the Navy's latest patrol submarine, HMS Ursula, coincided with Remembrance Day and members of the ship's company attended a service at Kalkara Military Cemetery held by the Royal Naval Association (Malta Branch). Flag Officer Submarines, Rear-Admiral Toby Frere laid a wreath on behalf of the Submarine Service.

HMS Ursula's visit was particularly appropriate as the previous submarine to bear her name was one of the few survivors of the Malta-based Tenth Submarine Squadron that operated with devastating effect against Axis convoys in the Second World War. (See story/picture, back page).



Photographs —

Left, MEA Apprentices from HMS Sultan and the Royal Marines Band, Deal, on display at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Above, The Prince of Wales lays his wreath at the Remembrance Day Service in Hong Kong.

Submariners' 70th year

AT an earlier ceremony in London, Flag Officer Submarines took the salute at the march-past when some 600 veteran and serving submariners remembered those who lost their lives in submarines at the rededication of the National Submarine Memorial on the 70th anniversary of its unveiling.

Among the many attending was Mr. Tommy (Nat) Gould, one of three surviving submariners who won the Victoria Cross. Mr. Gould earned his award for tackling a German bomb that was lodged in the

casing of his submarine and tossing it into the sea during action in the Mediterranean in 1942.

The Remembrance Service was sponsored jointly by the Submarine Old Comrades Association of London, the Interaction Trust of HMS President and the Corporation of the City of London.

The Lord Mayor was represented by the Chief Commoner, Mr. Peter Rugby, who unveiled a commemorative plaque donated for the occasion by the City.



On completion of their work a short wreath-laying ceremony was held, and it is hoped that the British War Graves Commission, now aware of the site, will take a further interest in years to come.

On leaving Tallin the Squadron called at Gottland, Sweden and Kalipeda in Lithuania, before visiting Riga in Latvia, where an official flower-laying ceremony was held at the city's Freedom Monument. They then went on to the Latvian port of Leipaja, with the Chief of the Latvian Navy, Capt. Gaidis Zeibots, going to sea with them.

The three ships returned to their home-port of Rosyth via Warnemunde in former East Germany and Amsterdam.

MCM1 gets around in the Baltic

ON the tiny island of Naissaar in the Baltic Sea a 15-strong team from ships of the First Mine Countermeasures Squadron, Brocklesby, Ledbury and Dulverton, remembered nine British servicemen who gave their lives during the Crimea War of 1854, when they landed to clean up and restore their neglected graves and memorial site.

The island lies just off the coast of recently-independent Estonia, but it is still under the control of Russian forces based there. Arrangements for the visit to the site, believed to be the

first ever by a British military unit, were made when the three ships were visiting the Estonian port of Tallin as part of their two-month deployment in the Baltic.



Photographs — right, ships' companies of MCM1 at the flower-laying ceremony at the Freedom Monument in Riga, Latvia.

Inset, above — clean-up team at Naissaar (from left to right) MEM Payne, AB(D) Chris Betts, RO Scott Duncan, WEM Darren Coughlin, S(MW) Ian Plaice, AB(D) Dave McKee, AB(MW) Adrian Dawson, AB(MW) Aaron Blackman and MEM Colin Graham.

Memo charts a fresh course



Lieut.-Cdr. the Duke of York introduces Boris Yeltsin to Second Sea Lord Admiral Sir Michael Livesey at a banquet at the Royal Naval College Greenwich to mark the Russian President's visit to Britain last month.

AN historic "memorandum of understanding" between the Hydrographer of the Navy Rear Admiral John Myres, and his Russian counterpart has been signed on board the ocean survey vessel HMS Herald during her official visit to St. Petersburg.

Drawn up with Vice-Admiral Yuri Zheglov, it will promote and improve the safety of navigation at sea.

"Although we wear different uniforms of two different navies we share the bond of hydrographers," said Rear Admiral Myres.

"Our purpose is to make sure charts are as precise as possible. If all nations swap data and charts they can ensure that ships do not come to grief and that lives are not lost."

Admiral Zheglov was host for HMS Herald's four-day visit, the first to the former city of Leningrad by a surveying flotilla ship since HMS Vidal 28 years ago.

The ship's company were overwhelmed by the hospitality shown to them, enjoying visits to the circus and ballet — but they were also aware that there was a humanitarian aspect to their visit.

Guide dog

HMS Herald's commanding officer, Cdr. Bob Mark, agreed to transport clothing, foodstuffs and other donated goods for the Russian city of Yaroslavl, north of Moscow, which were collected by its Devon twin town of Exeter.

The ship itself also raised money to buy urgently-needed medical supplies for the St. Petersburg Blue Crow Hostel for abandoned children.

HMS Herald has now deployed to her mid-Atlantic survey ground and will be visiting ports along the Brazilian coastline before returning in April for a refit.

It is hoped that during her deployment money will be raised to buy a guide dog for the blind to the christened Gerald — the Russian pronunciation of the ship's name.

Disabled staff — 3 year plan

The Navy is set to improve its standing as an employer of disabled civilian staff over the next three years.

As part of the Ministry of Defence's "Ability Not Disability" Plan, it will seek to sharpen up education, accommodation safety access and equipment, employment, development and training.

The MOD has already set up a steering group to discuss problems of disability and launched a survey to establish the numbers of disabled staff currently employed by the department.

Under Secretary of State for Defence Lord Cranborne told Navy News he was aware the MOD's past performance was not as good as it should have been.

"There has been a lack of awareness about the abilities of disabled people and often poor facilities for them — but we are determined to do better," he said.

WRENS from HMS Daedalus formed the largest female guard yet seen on a RN establishment when they joined 500 officers and ratings for ceremonial divisions.

IN BRIEF

Drake delivers on youth

LORD MAYOR of Plymouth Cllr Ron Simmonds and Leader of the City Council John Ingham visited HMS Drake to inspect courses and leisure facilities being provided there for unemployed young people.

□ □ □

MEMBERS of the Russian Convoy Club visited HMS Raleigh to present a commemorative plaque and watch the Passing Out Parade with Director General Manpower and Training Rear-Admiral Nicholas Wilkinson.

□ □ □

WREATHS in memory of the men who lost their lives in the Orwell estuary during the world wars were cast on to the waters by members of the HMS Ganges Association after an Armistice Service at Shotley.

□ □ □

SOUTH SHIELDS artist John Gilmore's painting of HMS Audacity, the first British escort carrier that was sunk on 21 December 1941, has been donated to Blyth Library by the local branch of the Boiler-makers' Union.

□ □ □

ACCOMMODATION blocks at HMS Collingwood built in the 1960s have been demolished to be replaced with single cabins for junior ratings.

□ □ □

FEAR of theft has prompted Cdr. Richard Phillimore to present a pair of three pounder bronze cannon captured during the Battle of Copenhagen and presented to the Royal Armouries Museum at Fort Nelson, Fareham.

□ □ □

PO ALAN Christopher, formerly of 702 Naval Air Sqn, who was paralysed in a swimming pool accident last year, made a return visit to HMS Osprey with staff from the Spinal Unit at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury.

Aid for Albania's children in need

SAILORS from HMS Gloucester had just nine hours to transform a dilapidated orphanage in Durrës, Albania as the Type 42 destroyer paid the first visit to the country by a Royal Navy ship since 1938.

It was a challenge that might have daunted Anneka Rice, for they found the home's 46 children — most of them abandoned at birth — were living in conditions more primitive than any of them had ever witnessed.

"My wife's a child minder

and I don't know what she'd make of this," said LS Paul Shutt.

As a party of 40 from the ship set about painting the peeling walls, renewing broken woodwork, repairing furniture and cleaning out filthy drains, Surg. Lieut.-Cdr Rob Chakraverty examined all the children — and advised that one six-month old baby had bronchial pneumonia.

Governor Chris's pat on the back

After paying his first call at HMS Tamar Governor Chris Patten said the Navy's role in securing the peace and prosperity of Hong Kong was one of "great distinction".

On board HMS Peacock, one of the Hong Kong Squadron's patrol craft, he inspected a thermal imaging camera used for detecting

smugglers and watched some video footage of anti-smuggling operations.

He also took a look at the Fast Pursuit Craft used in some of the dramatic chases described in recent issues of Navy News.

Mr Patten later visited the Navy's Engineering Workshops and saw how work was progressing on the new Naval Base at Stonecutters Island.

● HMS Peacock and HMS Starling were called to help search for survivors when a Chinese border patrol boat was in collision with a cargo vessel 20 miles SE of the Crown Colony.

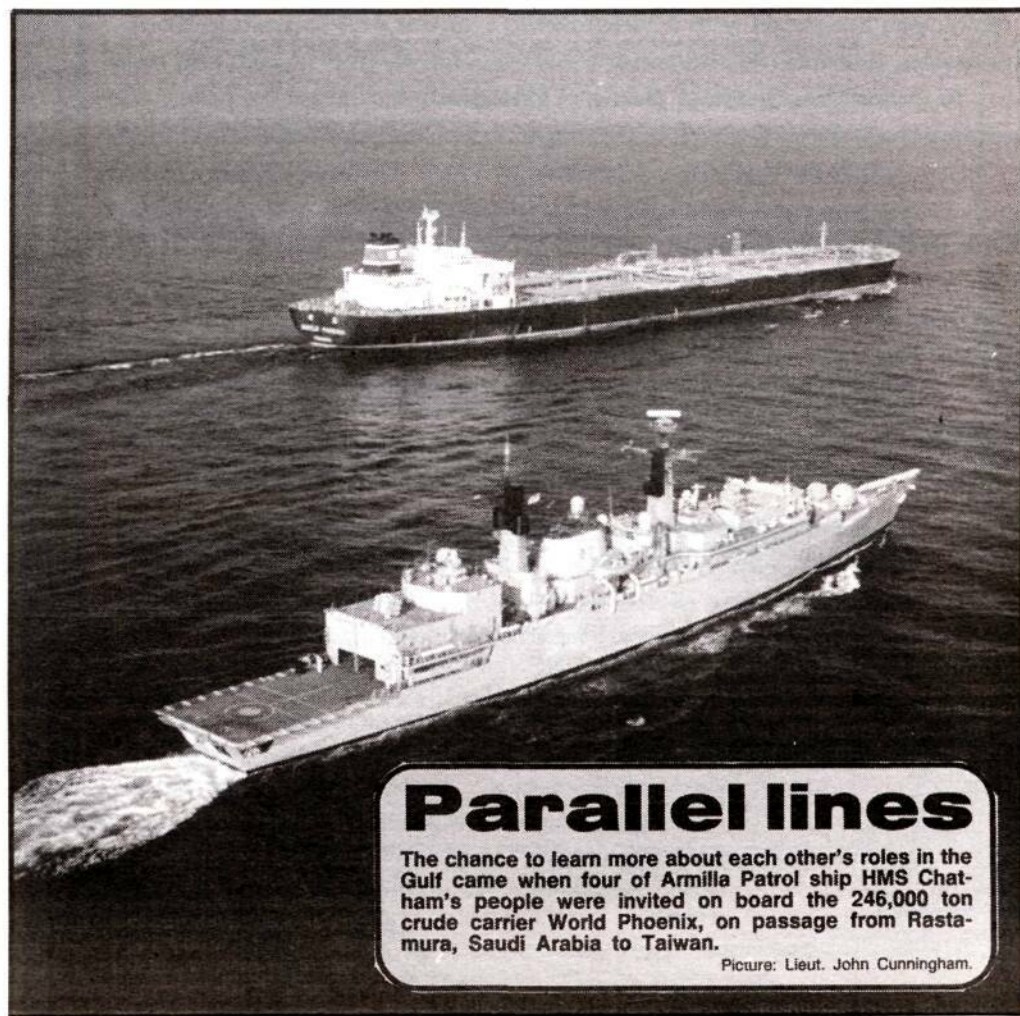
First on the scene was the American guided missile cruiser USS William H Standley, on her way to Hong Kong for a routine visit. She picked up 15 survivors from the patrol boat Gong Bian 101 which sank immediately.

Helicopters of the RAF and RHKAAF later recovered three bodies from the water which were returned to the Chinese authorities.

Support Tribunals start up

Child Support Appeal Tribunals — for which former Chief Naval Judge Advocate Judge Tony Thorpe is responsible — come into operation next year to regulate maintenance payments.

Volunteers for Tribunal Service — each has a lawyer chairman and two other members — may write to Mrs Alexandra Murray, Office of the President, Independent Tribunal Service, Clements House, Gresham Street, London EC2V 7DN.



Parallel lines

The chance to learn more about each other's roles in the Gulf came when four of Armilla Patrol ship HMS Chatham's people were invited on board the 246,000 ton crude carrier World Phoenix, on passage from Rastamara, Saudi Arabia to Taiwan.

Picture: Lieut. John Cunningham.

Moving from shortage to surplus


Drafty

Review of 1992



1992 was a difficult year for many of us and Drafting was no exception. With the first and second phases of redundancy, reductions in advancement, promotion, 2OE and recruiting, Drafty has had to deal with many rapid changes and some totally new factors while still trying to keep the drafting flow constant with minimum impact upon the individual.

In recent years with naval manpower in general shortage, normal drafting was relatively easy to manage and satisfying individual preferences could be achieved without too much difficulty. With current overbearings in many categories it is now more difficult to achieve ideal drafting. Not only is it necessary to find short term, useful employment for those who cannot be found a complement billet, but we can no longer select the jobs we gap, as in the days of shortage, to allow us to get a greater percentage of individuals into their preference area.

2,000 on hold

At present there are some 1,500 individuals in PQ 4041 — the surplus PQ number. This number is expected to grow to some 2,000 by April 1993. Those drafted into PQ 4041 are those for whom a job cannot be identified in the next three months and almost certainly the draft will be to the preference area.

There is no connection between those in PQ 4041 and those who may be made redundant. Everyone irrespective of where they are serving is considered equally by redundancy boards, and PQ 4041 is simply a 'holding category' to allow Drafty to get the right people into the right holes. However PQ 4041 may be used for those who have been declared redundant to draft them to an establishment where they can be properly employed, or based for release courses, before final departure.

Getting off early

In the present situation with surplus manpower in many categories, it is possible in most cases to allow those who have applied for premature voluntary release to leave early. The basic requirement is that either Drafty can provide a relief within normal drafting notice or the individual's Commanding Officer can accept a gap.

Application should be made to Captain Naval Drafting and currently most applications are being approved. While present surpluses of manpower allow early release, the very fluid manpower scene could change rapidly and if branches fall into shortage, early release will no longer be possible.

Warrant parchments in the post

After almost three years during which time no newly-promoted Warrant Officers received their Warrant parchment, you will be pleased to know that the system has managed to find its feet again and the new items will soon be available for substantive Warrant Officers promoted from April 1990 onwards. There is no need for individuals to apply for parchments; they will be sent out from Centurion as soon as they are available and, at the time of writing, that looks like January 1993.



Over extended

In recent months there has been a re-arrangement of procedure over extended service. As we are now in general manpower surplus, wherever possible and sensible when an extended service rating reaches the end of his current extension

he or she will be replaced by an active service rating. There will be times when an active service rating cannot be provided or only an extended service rating is suitable — on these occasions an extended service rating will be selected.

Keep us in the picture

Drafty's main aim is not only to man the Fleet correctly but to make sure wherever possible that individuals are doing the job for which they have been trained, where they want to be. It is especially important in these times of rapid change to keep Drafty up to date. Get your Divisional Officer to contact the drafting desks if necessary and always make sure that Drafting Preference Cards are up to date and accurate.

Tell us if circumstances change on a C230 and for Divisional Officers and Senior Rates make sure that your recommendations for employment on Drafting Preference Cards are carefully and accurately completed. Naval Drafting Division does not hold divisional documents so cannot judge if an individual is suited say to small ships or perhaps retines. Only Divisional Officers and Senior Rates know in detail the particular strengths and perhaps weaknesses of individuals so their recommendation is often the basis of a draft and we must be able to rely upon it. Most are excellent but some are clearly filled in with too little thought.

By the way, a new 25-minute video has been produced which will provide some good background information on drafting principles. This was distributed to major shore establishments and copies are available from film libraries.

Make the most of your money

When confronted with resettlement or redundancy from the Royal Navy, you are faced with a bewildering amount of information from the media, financial institutions, even from family and friends, on how to invest your money. Some of this guidance might be very professional, some limited in its scope and some just "well-meaning"

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Looking ahead to '93

It is not easy to be sure what drafting conditions will be over the next year with such rapid changes affecting manpower. However it is expected that advancement, promotion and selection for 2OE will stay at low levels, assuming PVR rates do not increase significantly.

It currently remains Drafty's target to maintain IPRE drafting at 90%, although there are indications that it will be more difficult to maintain this level as the size of the Navy contracts. There will also be a number of individuals who will have to move, possibly non-preference, as a result of the many re-organisations and re-locations underway such as the conventional submarine move to Devonport and elements of the engineering world to

the Bath area to man the new Naval Support Command.

Recruiting will be much reduced in 1993 with a fairly rapid impact on the sea bill. Where there is a wait to get to sea for a first sea draft, this wait should reduce or disappear entirely. First sea drafts could be extended in some categories and the delicately balanced process of drafting women to sea after initial training could be made more complex.

Despite all the changes and problems that beset the manpower world, the vast majority will remain largely unaffected and will continue to be offered a rewarding and long-term career. So we wish all our customers a happy Christmas and a successful new year. Drafty for his part will strive to protect wherever possible, individuals from the many changes and undoubted turbulence that the year will bring, hoping that between us we can achieve as many happy individuals in good and enjoyable jobs within their preference area as possible.

FREEDOM OF GOSPORT



WITH swords drawn and bayonets fixed, personnel from HMS Centurion parade through the town centre after receiving the Freedom of the Borough of Gosport.

Following the customary ceremonial receipt of the Freedom Casket and Scroll the salute was taken by Commodore Martin Appleton and the Mayor of Gosport Cllr. M. Russell.

FULL LIFE FOR THE WARTIME DESTROYER

TODAY's Hunt class Mine Countermeasures Vessel HMS Bicester maintains a strong connection with survivors of the Second World War Hunt class destroyer of the name.

That escort destroyer was the second ship to bear the name, the first having been a twin-screw minesweeper commissioned in August 1917. Allocated to the 2nd Fast Sweeping Flotilla, operating in the North Sea, the first Bicester paid off in October 1919 and was sold for scrap in 1923.



The second HMS Bicester was launched in September 1941 and commissioned in June 1942. She operated with the Londonderry Special Escort Division, her first operation being the "Pedestal" Malta Convoy in mid-August 1942.

In the November of that year the Bicester supported landings at Oran, remaining in the Mediterranean as the leader of the 58th Destroyer Division. The following February she sank the enemy submarine U443 to the west of Algiers.

The Bicester refitted in Devonport during the summer of 1943 and returned to lead the 59th Destroyer Division at Malta, taking part in Operation Anvil, the invasion of southern France.

The Division moved to Alexandria in September 1944, operating in the Aegean during the civil war in Greece. HMS Bicester finally returned to the United Kingdom in December 1945 after a brief respite in the Indian Ocean.

The first reunion of the Second World War Bicester's ship's company took place in 1982, the ship's 40th anniversary year, in the town of Bicester.

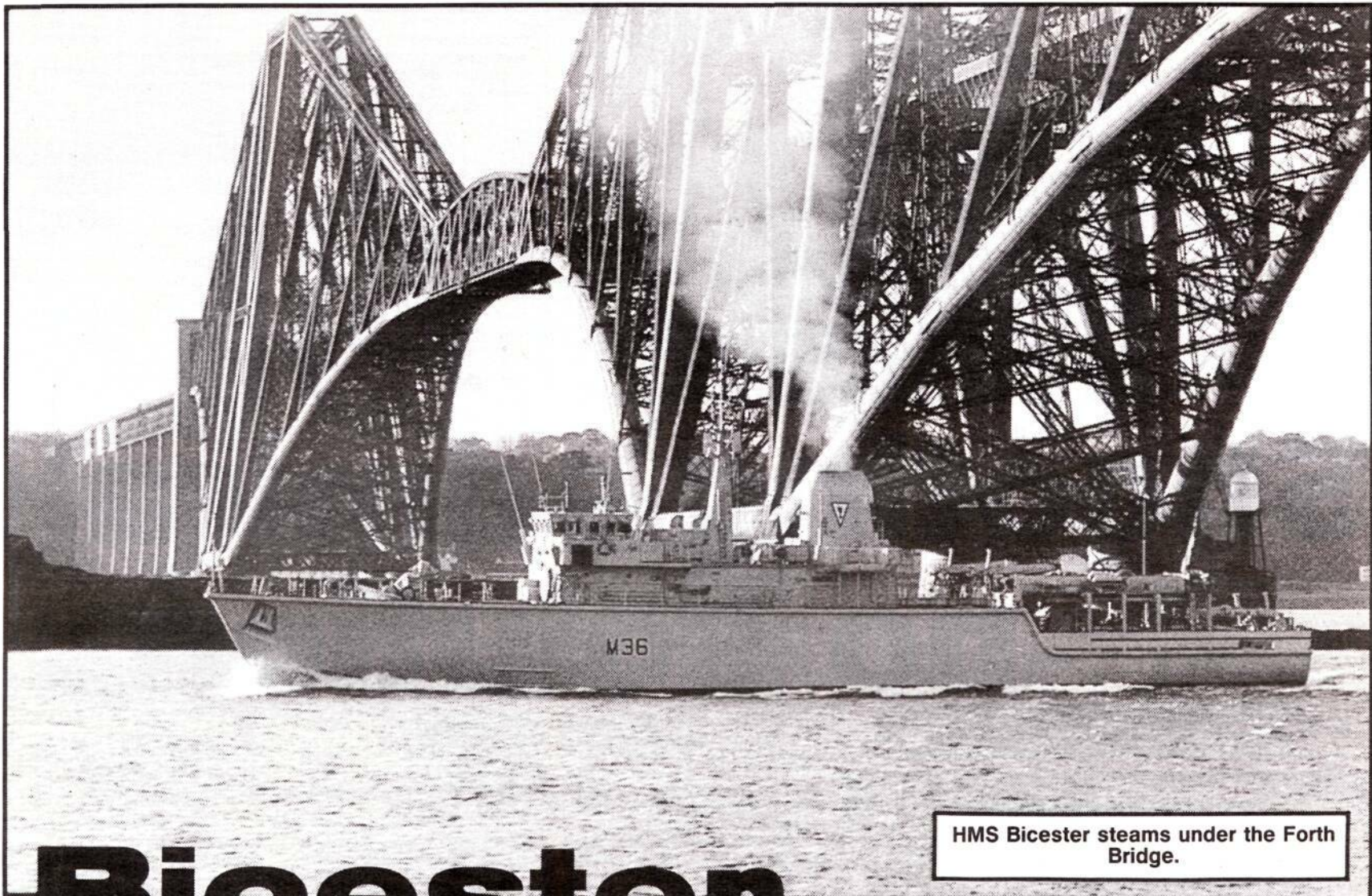
Ex-Ordnance Artificer of the wartime Bicester, Mr Ben Iles reports, "Our ship's company who served at the time of the Relief of Malta are awaiting the award of the Malta Medal, which we are entitled to wear and have applied for en bloc . . .

"Our Captain of L34 was the late William Floyd Bennetts (Wiggy to our crew) and our First Lieutenant (aged 21 years) was Mark Aubrey Tennyson, grandson of the poet Lord Tennyson."

During her busy war, the Bicester earned six battle honours — *Malta Convoys 1942, North Africa 1942-43, Mediterranean 1943-44, South of France 1944, Adriatic 1944 and Aegean 1944.*

Postcard collectors waiting for a card of HMS Andromeda are asked to bear with us. We are holding on for the latest photograph of the frigate.

Ships of the Royal Navy No. 445



HMS Bicester steams under the Forth Bridge.

Bicester clears the way

DURING the mine clearance operations off Kuwait in the summer of 1991, HMS Bicester alone destroyed more mines than any other mine clearance vessel anywhere since the Second World War.

Subsequently, the Hunt Class Mine Countermeasures Vessel (MCMV) underwent an extensive, six month refit. She was rededicated to Rosyth in July and is now "back in the hunt," ready to operate in both her minehunting and minesweeping roles.

Whilst in refit the ship enjoyed a friendly relationship with Babcock Thorn Ltd and the Rosyth Royal Dockyard, helping towards the smooth and successful post-refit trials period.

The Bicester had belonged to the 4th MCM Squadron. That has disbanded and she is now part of the Portsmouth-based 2nd MCM Squadron, although she will remain Rosyth-based until next August.

The Hunt class MCM vessels are the largest in the world to date to be built of glass reinforced plastic, which is non-magnetic and strong enough to withstand the explosive shocks likely to be encountered in mine countermeasures activity.

The GRP hull reduces to a minimum the ship's magnetic signature. Great care has been taken to measure and then annul the magnetic effect of all machinery and stores on board.

The Bicester's noise signature has also been reduced to a minimum by tuning and matching all the main machinery and by taking great care with all resilient mountings.

The Hunt class vessels destroy mines by sweeping them with towed wire and influence sweeps or hunt for them using high definition sonar and then destroy them by use of explosives. These can be placed

either by diver or by the ship's Remote Controlled Mine Dis-

FACTS & FIGURES

Pennant no: M36.
Builder: Vosper Thornycroft Ltd. **Launched:** June 1985. **Commissioned:** March 1986.
Displacement: 685 tonnes. **Length:** 60 metres. **Beam:** 10m. **Draught:** 3m. **Engines:** 2 x Paxman Deltic 9 cylinder diesels (Type 9-59K) producing 950 shp, main drive, 1 x Paxman Deltic 9 cylinder diesel (Type 9-55B) producing 825 shp, auxiliary engine, supplying hydraulic power to bow thrust, slow speed drive and winches. In addition, supplies pulsing mode to minesweeping loop equipment. **Range:** 1,500 miles at 12 knots. **Ship's company:** 5 officers, 9 senior rates and 27 junior rates.

posol System, which is in effect a miniature submarine.

Hydraulic winches enable the sweep to be handled efficiently and quickly. The high definition sonar is capable of detect-

ing small objects on the sea bed in greater depths and over longer ranges than previously achieved.

Information provided by modern echo sounders and inputs from the Sonar, Decca and hifx systems is used by the Bicester's Computer Assisted Information System to give an accurate picture of any area or shipping route to be cleared of mines.

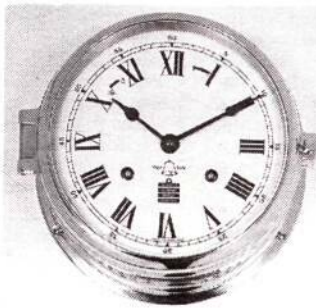
Their 30mm gun enables the Hunts to function in their secondary role as patrol craft.

Powered by two Deltic diesel engines driving fixed pitch propellers through ahead/astern clutches and reverse reduction gearboxes, the Bicester can achieve 15 knots. To facilitate the slow running necessary for mine warfare, a third Deltic provides power via hydrostatic transmission systems, air clutches and main gearboxes.

The problems of manoeuvring at low speed are overcome by the use of hydraulic bow thruster, thus obviating the need for the activated rudder system found in conventional sweepers and hunters.

POSTCARDS of Ships of the Royal Navy are obtainable at 60p each (minimum order £1.80) from Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. An order for 12 cards is priced at £6.50 and a standing order for the supply of each of 12 cards on publication can be arranged on receipt of £10/foreign £11.50. Prices include postage and packing, and postcards will be despatched on receipt of stamps, postal order or cheque. No postcards are stocked of ships which paid off before 1956.

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BOUQUET	Special Mixed.....	£22.50
BOUQUET	Pink/Red Carnations/Freesia/Fern.....	£16.50
BOUQUET	Roses/Carnations/Freesia/Fern.....	£17.50
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BOUQUET	Spray Carnations/Freesia/Fern.....	£11.50

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PIG AND PIGLETS	Pale Pink..... 10" / 7" long £22.75
BERTIE BADGER	Black/White..... 22" long £22.60
LEO THE LION	Brown/Gold lying..... 15" long £17.85

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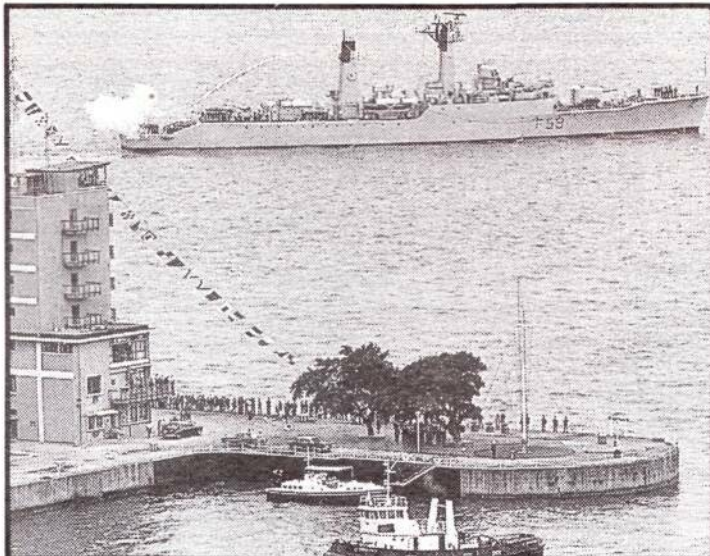
CHICHESTER FAREWELL

WITH reference to the claim (October) that HMS Peacock was the first RN ship to visit Guam since HMS Tiger in 1973, in fact I believe HMS Chichester was the last to visit.

I was an RO1(G) on board the "Chi" at the time and it was approximately May 1976. We sailed from Hong Kong in April 1976 for the UK.

After a few weeks in Portsmouth we took the ship to Chatham Reserve Ships Unit to put her into mothballs and then for scrap. — P. E. Robinson, Ex-LRO, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

● HMS Chichester passes HMS Tamar for the last time.



Is this a record?

CONCERNING the correspondence on visits to Madagascar, during 1946-48, while serving in the East Africa/South Atlantic geographical area, the cruiser which was my home never at any time visited Madagascar.

Having followed this correspondence with interest, I am now wont to ask are, or were there, any other RN ships which did not at any time visit this island? If so, are the present-day survivors feeling deprived and in need of counselling? — W. G. Smith, Ex-CPO, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear.

ECCEENTIAL READING

AS I am having a three-month stay in Portsmouth I thought you would be interested to know that Navy News was regularly received by one of the teachers in Murmansk, the snowy Russian city in the far north of the country.

That was me — who looked through your paper, chose the most interesting articles and cut and retyped them to show to my pupils, the cadets of the Murmansk State Academy of Fishing Fleet. They had their practice in translation of naval terms as a part of their studies. I found it useful because they could learn modern English used in the Navy. Your paper helps to teach future Russian navigators!

Adopted

While writing, could I thank all my adopted "grandads" of the North Russia Club whose annual dinner I was honoured to attend. I thoroughly enjoyed being among the sailors who brought much-needed supplies to Murmansk in wartime. — Veronica Zyкова, Southsea, Hants.

Shooting admirals is no solution . . .

BECAUSE of significant reductions in the requirement and the current redundancy programmes, selection boards have not made any selection for Chief Petty Officer in many branches this year. The Second Sea Lord's Presentation Team tells us this policy will remain for at least three to five years.

I wonder what incentives now exist to promote the continued dedication of those who now face the reality of a career effectively rendered dead in the water?

The efforts of individuals now go without reward. What now stops us from joining our "lacklustre" counterparts? What is the point of continued effort, other than personal pride? The promotion of superior attitudes by our commanders is now effectively undermined, to say nothing of the knock-on effect, throughout the rank structure, of poor morale.

Options for Change has set the aim in terms of manpower. As usual the Navy will rise to the challenge. It is how we are meeting this challenge that raises some demanding questions.

How can we offer Extended Service to some whose terms of engagement are near termination, and in the same breath curtail the careers of those with time to serve?

The reduction in manpower will obviously see a reduction in vacancies at all rates. However, to stop all advancement beyond Petty Officer for an extended period has effectively demolished the career structure for many. This policy is surely ill-conceived and will do more damage, in terms of morale, than could ever be envisaged.

Surely a better policy would be to end the Second Open Engagement forthwith. Make redundant those who have completed 22 years' service or more and thus free up the advancement structure and satisfy the demands of the redundancy programme. A few promotions must surely be better than none at all.

In the context of encouraging advancement by making vacancies, perhaps we should bear in mind the words of Voltaire (1694-1778), who wrote, after the execution of Admiral Byng on March 14 1757: "In this country (England) it is considered good to kill an admiral from time to time, to encourage the others." — **Frustrated PO.** At sea.

In response, the Director of Naval Manpower Planning (Capt. T. W. Loughran) said the letter reflected the concern that all appreciated in trying to slim down in a controlled way to the force levels under "Defence for the Nineties."

He continued:

In reducing our numbers in a time of recession, with its attendant high retention rates, we have taken management action to ensure that the RN as a whole is not "rendered dead in the water."

To achieve this, we have to reduce our numbers at the right levels where the requirement has reduced, to remove overbearings and thus maintain the career prospects of those remaining. The importance of balanced numbers at all levels in each Sub-Branch cannot be over-emphasised.

Concerning the letter's specific points, firstly, there is not a policy of making no selections for promotion in many branches. Our aim is to avoid making someone redundant; promoting someone else to fill the gap; and then making that person redundant in turn! I hope the writer will take some comfort from the recent signals on the subject of promotions put out by CINCFLEET and CINNAVHOME which hold out the prospect of some promotions during the year from the reserve list.

Secondly, we cannot say that there will be no promotions for at least 3-5 years: There will be

promotions but, for the immediate future, promotion rates seem likely to be lower than the artificially high rates of only 18 months ago when we were suffering manpower shortages and complementing gaps.

I can make no better forecast on the national economy than the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but I would be surprised if the present strictures last as long as suggested.

Thirdly, the author implies that Extended Service engagements are curtailing the careers of others. In fact, redundancy is only one of three means of our increasing the numbers leaving the manpower strength. In the last two years we have also reduced 20E quotas by 70 per cent and this year we have refused 93 per cent of applications for Extended Service.

So getting to the aiming point of a balanced and affordable structure which will provide a rewarding career for its people is a painful process for many (even if our ways of reducing the numbers of Admirals are not quite as terminal as that experienced by Admiral Byng!).

But get there we must, for the sake of all those who remain and those who are yet to join. There are many other walks of life which do not enjoy such a high degree of security of employment for the majority.

Smoked out fuming

GIVEN the increasing awareness by MOD about the dangers of passive smoking in the workplace, is it now time they turned their attention to messdecks because it is here that smokers congregate in large numbers.

Poor ventilation or inadequate smoke filters must mean that in ships it is the messdeck where the greatest danger prevails. Although these days non-smokers are in the majority, they are driven from their living spaces by the few who care nothing for the health of others.



Letters



I have no sympathy for smokers who suffer ill health because of their habit, but spare a thought for those among the non-smoking majority who fall ill or, in worst case, may die through the ignorance of others.

The Navy should act now and ban smoking in all living spaces, not just the workplace, though this is where the main danger lies. — **J. Robertson**, CPO, HMS Amazon.

Wised up on Minerva

CONCERNING the "First World War monitor HMS Minerva" shown in your October edition, can I point out that there was a two-funnel, ram-bowed cruiser Minerva at Gallipoli, but the vessel being restored at Portsmouth, and shown in your photograph, is the Monitor 33.

This became an unarmed exercise minelayer between the wars, assuming the name of Minerva when the cruiser was sold. Now she has a gun mounted and is being restored to her Gallipoli appearance. It's as unfair to call her Minerva as it would be to call the Cutty Sark by her last name (Maria Do Amparo) or the Warrior by hers (oil fuel hulk C77). — **T. Whelan**, Rothesay, Isle of Man.

First back to Funcoast

MAY I dispute the picture caption (October) which says that the former boys from HMS Ganges were the first of the Navy to "invade" Butlin's Funcoast World at Skegness since wartime days, when the holiday camp was known as HMS Royal Arthur.

As an 18-year-old naval entrant, I spent two periods at Royal Arthur in 1942 and revisited it in 1988 along with a large number of former Royal Arthur sailors as part of the first reunion of the HMS Royal Arthur Association.

I made a second visit in 1991 when the LST and Landing Craft Association, of which I am also a member, held their fifth reunion there.

Between 1939 and 1946 over a quarter of a million young men passed through this concrete battleship (training centre), the entrance of which still bore the holiday camp message "Our True Intent is all for Your Delight". This brought many wry smiles and caustic comments from the wartime sailor-campers in the Navy days of firm discipline and often harsh weather conditions for those in the little wooden comfortless chalets.

The camp is now very different from the wartime and pre-war versions. One of the little wooden chalets is preserved as a building of historical interest. — **M. A. Hillebrandt**, Hatfield, Herts.

Burning issue

ISN'T it about time the Royal Navy viewed bonfire night with a more positive attitude, especially in the light of the accident which took place at Whale Island?

Why the powers-that-be still condone what happened with Guy Fawkes all those years ago is beyond me. No matter what safety precautions are taken at organised displays, there will always be an element of danger.

You will, no doubt, have those who believe it is a good PR exercise and gets the local community intergrated with

the RN. But I say that in these days of increasing security problems we do not need to invite potential problems onto our establishments.

Virtually all areas in the Portsmouth area hold organised displays; that should suffice. — **A Concerned Senior Rate**, Hants.

Background of quality

I READ with interest "Double standards down below" (October). After serving 19 years in the Engine Room Department of the Royal Navy I decided to try my hand in the big wide world, and three weeks after leaving found me sailing from Southampton as a Third Engineer Officer in a steamer bound for Central America.

After a few weeks it soon became apparent that I needed some more qualifications a.s.a.p. This accomplished during my first few years, I went on to serve for 20 years and 11 months. During that time I sailed in all ranks, including Chief Engineer, but mainly as a Second Engineer Officer, a rank I thoroughly enjoyed.

My advice to your correspondent and any others about to leave the Service is, if you have "made it" while you were there, always remember your training, the finest in the world, and go to it and show them what you are made of. — **P. B. Smith**, Ex-RN Mechanician; Engineer Officer MNR, Well-Ingborough, Northants.

LETTERS to the Editor should always be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication.



No. 461 39th year

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UNWORTHY SUSPICIONS

I PEN this letter with the motto "life in a blue suit" in my ears, so I expect no chiding about having unrealistic expectations.

However, I have noticed that it is possible for a rating to complete a career having been duty over the Christmas period, each and every year. If said rating is a non-volunteer, then days in lieu or advance/retard leave is scant recompense.

Much more commonly, and also unavoidably, leave may be lost due to the current drafting situation.

On a much lesser scale, it is noticeable that for a small minority, it seems that strategically close to a duty weekend or deployment, a rating's wife or child "unexpectedly" requires the presence of said rating at home, this situation being strangely repeated across the

period of some years. Not for one second would I suggest that this is ever intentional. But it leaves others, who already have work to do, to cover for him or her.

Therefore, I suggest a compensation payment be made possible in the Navy for occasions not really covered by the X-factor which could be made through a local divisional "tribunal." Call it LIABS money (work it out) or "goodwill."

It could be paid, for example, at the rate of one day's pay per day of the period in question. This would give some assurance that the Service recognises the extra diligence that some personnel have to make to cover for an unworthy few (though of course I realise that some personnel do have genuine troubles that require time) does not go unappreciated. — **I WEM(O)**. At sea.

SETT IN YOUR WAYS? TRY SOME



ESCAPISM!

What is the loneliest journey in the world? It begins when you climb into the narrow submarine escape tower at depths up to 600 feet, and it ends on the surface of the sea. You doubt it? Ask at the Submarine Escape Training Tank. They know.

In July 1987, instructors from the Tank set a new world record for deep submarine escape of 601 feet, from HMS Otus in Bjorne Fjord Norway. More routinely, shallow escape exercises are conducted in home waters, allowing volunteers from the ship's company to experience escapes at sea from 100 feet. Tank instructors on these occasions escape down to depths of 300 feet.

When he leaves the submarine an escaper must subject himself to the full pressure of the sea outside. Once he is out he still has to reach the surface safely. The system that allows him to do all this is the Escape Tower used in conjunction with the Mark 8 Submarine Escape and Immersion Suit.

But what is it like to leave the calm, quiet safety of a submarine and go out through the tower? What if you had volunteered to make the journey up from 100 feet? Several men have already left the submarine, the hard way. Now it's your turn. You are nervous, who wouldn't be? The last time you did this it was in the Training Tank and you were watched every inch of the way up.

You climb up the ladder into the narrow tower. Your left arm raised so you can fit

more easily through the tiny hatch. Once inside, you plug in your air hose. The built-in lifejacket, or stole, of your escape suit fills. Cool air floods into the hood of your suit and you breathe normally. Tower checks, correct. You shout "okay!"

The lower lid of the tower is shut and shortly after the flood valve is opened, water washes in around your feet and starts to fill the tower. When the water level passes chest height the pressure comes on, fast ... and you start to clear your ears.

Breathe normally, and keep clearing your ears. The water level continues to rise as the air in the tower is compressed, and it's getting hot. The water level outside your suit is above your head, but with your hood full of air you keep breathing and suddenly, equalisation. The upper hatch of the tower lifts. You begin to rise, lifted by your suit.

Outside it is black, then green, you are hurtling upwards but you keep breathing normally, and that keeps

the pressure in your lungs balanced with the sea pressure. A spectrum of green flashes pass your face, lighter and lighter it grows until, after the longest 10 seconds of your life, you burst through the surface.

Submariners initially qualify in Submarine Escape before joining their first submarine, and requalify at regular intervals at the Tank throughout their submarine careers.

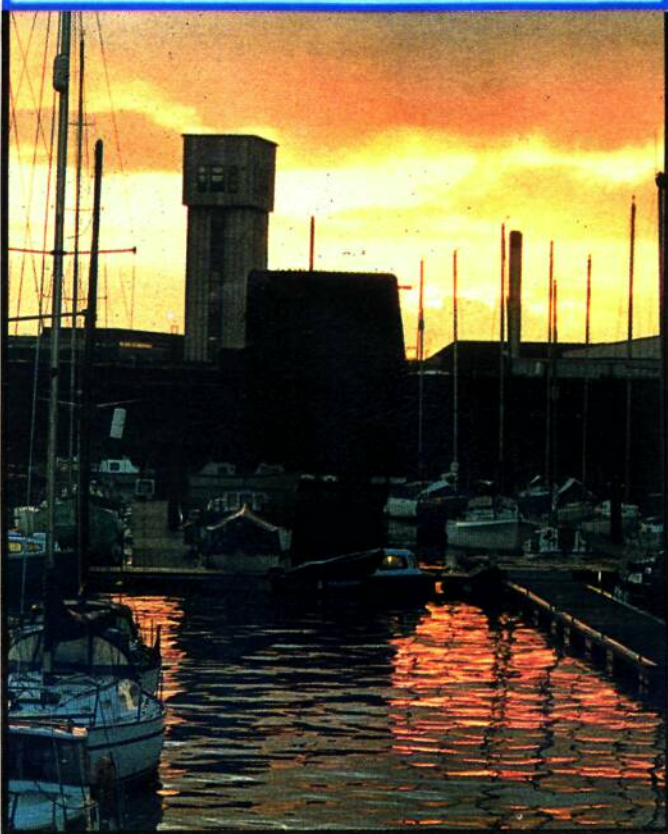
Tank instructors are drawn from submarine qualified CPOs and POs of all specialisations. The work is satisfying, exciting and demanding, and the Officer in Charge of the Tank says "It is probably the best job you could wish to have during your Service career. If you are seeking a new challenge, and you are physically fit, and looking for a draft in the Portsmouth area, then you should contact us."

Volunteers for service as Tank instructors should contact the Senior Instructor on Portsmouth Naval Base 0705 822351 (ext 41193).

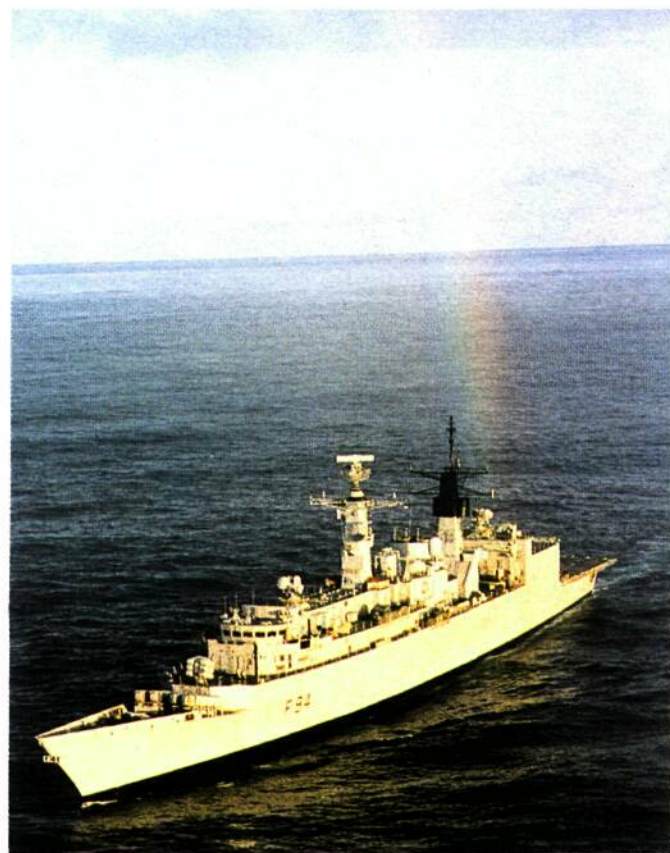
Above: This man must be relieved ... but prospective Tank instructors will be pleased to learn the Hall-Rees Helmet (designed 1907) is no longer worn!

Above right: A submariner wearing a Mark 8 Submarine Escape and Immersion Suit "bursts through the surface in a cascade of glittering spray".

Below: The Submarine Escape Training Tank dominates the Gosport skyline.



FRIGATE'S GOLDEN MOMENTS



TYPE 22 frigate HMS Brave sits at the end of a rainbow, like the proverbial crock of gold. The moment was caught as she steamed back to Devonport to begin a 12 month refit.

Since she entered Royal Navy service in February 1986, HMS Brave has sailed over 200,000 miles. She's been kept busy, too. She was Flagship to almost 30 British vessels during the Gulf conflict.

Much of her time spent on Towed Array patrols in the North Atlantic, Brave passed her most dangerous hours in the heavily mined waters of the Northern Persian Gulf.

Since the conflict, HMS Brave has undertaken a tour of duty with STANAVFORLANT and most recently a series of anti-submarine warfare exercises. The frigate was determined to end the term on a high note and left a number of conventional and nuclear submarines in no doubt that the

hunters were now the hunted.

Meanwhile, her Lynx helicopter also achieved a good score before transferring to HMS Lancaster.

It transported an injured crewman from the submarine HMS Sceptre to hospital via the ship and, on a lighter note, deposited the ship's photographic officer, Lieut. Mark Teasdale, on to the tiny outcrop of Rockall to fly the White Ensign.

Now HMS Brave will undergo a complete overhaul in DML's Frigate Refit Complex. When she emerges next year, she will be joined by "squaws" as well as "braves" — WRNS personnel will serve in her for the first time.

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Botham goes leg before . . .



CRICKETING star Ian Botham received a helping hand from the Navy during his latest fund-raising walk for Leukaemia Research.

Accompanying him on the first leg of his journey from Land's End were personnel from RN air station Culdrose (pictured below) who are on the current pilot and aircrewmen courses and who collected money along the route.

They also presented Ian with a cheque for £121 after holding a sponsored event at Culdrose.

Bucket carriers

On day four Ian was joined by four bucket carriers from HMS Raleigh. PO Gus Keep, POWAEM Ali Parnell, LPT Key Bowen and LWRENPT Michelle Bowen walked the 28 miles from Lostwithiel to Torpoint helping to raise £8,000 on the day.

WO Alec Beaston and 36 Junior Rates from HMS Collingwood joined Ian and footballer Gary Lineker from Southampton. Money raised on the day totalled £10,200 with £247 raised through collections on the establishment.

Ian and Gary were also accompanied by members of the Portsmouth Field Gun Crew on the walk from Portchester to Havant and are pictured left, taking a well-earned rest.

A family affair for Pompey runners



STILL smiling after completing the Diet Coke Great South Run are a group of Portsmouth runners who raised over £250 for Quest Cancer Test, an organisation set up to develop routine testing for cancer.

Keeping up with the Jones — that's Vic (centre, back), a POPT at HMS Temeraire and his wife Linda (front left), — were CPO(M) Eddie Seaborne (right, back), from HMS Wessex and his wife Marina, seated in front of him.

Also on hand to make it a real family affair was Chief Seaborne's brother Dean (centre, front), who serves as a PORS at Northwood and the Seaborne's neighbour Neil Thomas who was "press ganged" by the naval contingent into participating in the event!

Children saved in Somalia

PERSONNEL serving in HMS Osprey have handed over a cheque for over £1,300 to help the Save the Children Fund with their work in Somalia.

The money will be used to provide food for some 20,000 children per day at various centres in the capital and beyond. The Fund will also be working with people to help rebuild some of their basic services once the civil disorder has come to an end.

COFFEE TIME FOR NURSES

DURING "stand easy" at HMS Mercury 325 personnel, including parents of Radio Operators who were passing out on completion of their basic training, raised a cup of cheer — and £330 — when they took part in the World's Biggest Coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan Nurses Appeal.

Mrs Wendy Gould, the area's fund-raising organiser, was also presented with a cheque for £810 which was raised when the establishment took part in the charity's Macmillan Mile challenge earlier this year.

Another guest at the coffee morning was Dr. Simon Baxter, from Southampton Gen-

eral Hospital's Paediatric Unit which has been adopted by Kelly Squadron.

The new radio operators raised the £502 necessary to buy a Flexiflo Nutrition Pump which is used to help sick children who need to be fed at a steady and precise rate. The squadron has already donated three baby monitors to the unit.



Helping Hands

In the swim

A SPONSORED swim at HMS Collingwood has raised £591 for a young cancer victim.

RPO Bob Beetlestone and WREN Linda Small, from HMS Dryad, each swam 20 lengths to raise money for seven-year-old David Pejnovic.

The money will go towards buying him an IBM computer.

BIG HIT WITH LITTLE PEOPLE

THE colourful banner says it all! Rosneath and Clynder Mother and Toddler Group raised a cheer as a big "thank you" to the Afloat Repair Section of the Clyde Submarine Base's technical department for their generous donation of safety playmats.

Mr Ricky Holloway, who made the foam and rubber mats, and PO Simpson presented them to the group, much to the delight of the tots and leaders.





Teaming up with Janet

BACK in 1983 Janet Rogerson gave a helping hand to the ship's company of HMS Torquay when they took part in a sponsored run along Torquay's sea front to raise money for the local hospital and the South Devon Sports Association for the Handicapped.

Ten years on Janet, who has since married, is now in need of a helping hand herself. She is seriously ill and has set up a fund-raising appeal with the Cancer Research Campaign.

Promise

HMS Invincible has already rallied to her call by raising £150 and the ship's commanding officer, Capt. Fabian Malbon, who commanded HMS Torquay back in 1983, has personally promised to help with her appeal.

Anyone who feels they can assist with fund-raising or who wishes to make a donation should contact Janet Murray, CRC Team Up Appeal, Cancer Research Campaign, Cambridge House, 6-10 Cambridge Terrace, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LJ.



Assault on Raleigh

NINE students from Ivers Residential College spent the day at HMS Raleigh where they were given the chance to develop leadership skills in activities not normally practised at their home in Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

The children, all of whom have learning difficulties, tackled the assault course, experienced firefighting duties and were allowed some time to mess about on the river.



More fun in the sun

MEMBERS of HMS Newcastle's ship's company took time out from their fun in the sun on the homeward leg of Orient 92 to spread some sunshine to the Penang Cheshire Home which provides both day and residential care for teenagers suffering from muscular dystrophy.

The Newcastle ratings swapped their suntan oil and beach bags for paint brushes and garden forks to paint a

dormitory and transform a piece of jungle scrub into an arable garden.

CPOWEA Ian Thurston is

pictured, left, presenting one of the children with HMS Newcastle's badge while PO Dave Butt, AB Richie Grierson, LS Badger Briscoe, PO Stan Tryner and PO John Plummer look on.

Meanwhile, as HMS Invincible also made her way home, Rear-Admiral John Brigstocke waved off the first runner at the start of a sponsored 100 x one mile relay. One hundred members of the ship's company each ran one mile around the flight deck in aid of the Trevor Jones Trust for Spinal Injuries.

Relay race

Trevor, a former Fleet Air Arm pilot, was permanently disabled in a skiing accident while training for the Navy squad four years ago. Following the accident a group of his friends and colleagues got together to form a trust fund with the aim of helping sportsmen and women who have suffered permanent injuries through sport.

The Invincible runners completed the relay in 9hr 22min 15sec and raised £230 for the Trust.



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RALEIGH RIVALS



YO BRO' ... Young John Clay had more than his Divisional Officer's beady eye upon him when he arrived at HMS Raleigh — his sister Wendy was also on hand to make sure things ran smoothly.

Having just completed Part 1 Training, Wendy was able to offer advice to her 16-year-old brother before she left for HMS Mercury to embark on Part 2.

Meanwhile, Junior Seaman Operator Clay faces the challenge of matching — or even beating — his big sister's exam results ...



IT AIN'T HALF HOT!

ONLY by standing behind the survey column on the top of Ayers Rock in the heart of Australia could exchange officers Lieut.-Cdr. Bob Chapman (left) and Cdr. Paul Quinn maintain the illusion ...

Stiff as the Royal Navy upper lip may be, the resolution did not extend to wearing the long black trousers and regulation shoes decreed by Pusser; shorts and trainers were the order of the day for the hot, steep climb.

Paul and Bob are serving with the Royal Australian Navy at HMAS Nirimba, an apprentice training establishment. They flew out to Ayers Rock to rendezvous with a group of trainees who had helped overhaul an "airbus" for a fund-raising drive

from Sydney to the Rock, in aid of the Variety Club.

The vehicle combined the body of an ex-USAF DC3 and a 1937 Ford Chevrolet Maple Leaf truck chassis. Paul took charge of provisions and supplies, while Bob took the airbus back to Sydney.

Ayers Rock stands in the Great Victorian Desert, millions of square miles of not very much at all, but in the background of the main picture can be seen the Olga Range (500m high) at some 40km distance.

Succeeding by degrees

IN RECOGNITION of his work towards reorganising the Royal Navy, the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, has been awarded an honorary doctorate in business administration.

The degree was conferred at the Royal Naval Engineering College Manadon, where Admiral Oswald was guest of honour at the graduation ceremony and inspecting officer at Ceremonial Divisions.

In his address he said: "I assure you of my commitment to maintain RNEC. The College has no stronger advocate than myself."

The academic awards, including the Admiral's doctorate, were presented by Sir Raymond Rickett, then Chairman of the Council for National Academic Awards. The majority of awards were bachelorships of engineering, but for the first time at Manadon, bachelor of arts degrees in maritime defence, management and technology were also conferred.

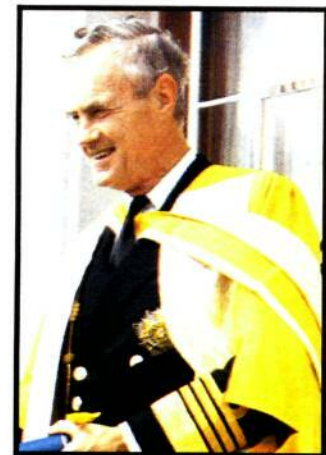
Sub-Lieut. Paul Offer was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for the top BEng results. Sub-Lieut. Nick Allen won the

Digital Equipment Company Prize for the top BA results. And the Queen's Sword, for the best performance overall in all aspects of training at Manadon, was awarded to Lieut. Richard Bywater.

GRADUATION day at the Royal Military College of Science Shrivenham saw Lieut. Matt Harrison receive a Master of Science degree in guided weapon systems.

Matt received the degree from guest of honour General Sir Peter de la Billiere. He was also presented with the Short Trophy for his academic achievement on the course and, together with Maj. Toby Mills RÈME, the Rapier Trophy, for an outstanding contribution to the course as a whole.

Now based at the Defence Research Agency Farnborough, Matt is using his degree in helping to support some of the weapon systems at sea today.



Admiral Oswald



Lieut. Harrison

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FRONT PAGE SPLASH



ADMIRING the clarity of the water — as well as that of the copy — is HMS Norfolk's Oceanographic Officer, Lieut.-Cdr. Paul Newman. He was making the most of the

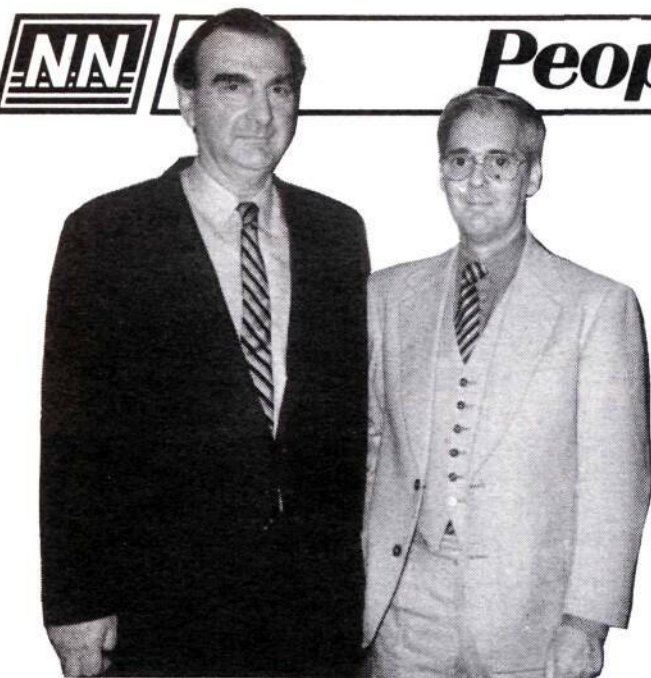
splendid water conditions off the beautiful island of Pulau Tioman in the South China Sea. HMS Norfolk made a brief stop there on her way from Penang to Exercise Starfish.



People in the News



And in brief



Their Worships

A FORMER commanding officer of HMS Antrim and a one-time senior rate on board the destroyer shared a benchmark in their post-Royal Navy careers when they were sworn in as Justices of the Peace at Portsmouth.

Capt. Gordon Walwyn RN (Retd.) and ex-CPO Radio Electrician Steve Chivers were among the final eight new magistrates to be appointed to the Portsmouth Magistrates Courts as they are constituted. The courts will become part of the new South East Magistrates Bench in January.

The Portsmouth Bench has existed for at least 400 years; first recorded mention of city magistrates appears in a document dated 1592!

Capt. Walwyn and Mr Chivers served together in HMS Antrim from 1977 until 1979.

LIFESAVER COMMENDED



WHILE carrying out pre-opening checks on the airfield at RNAS Culdrose, where he was on watch, LA Simon Jones heard over the radio that there had been a road accident near one of the entrances to the establishment.

He sped to the scene, arriving before the medical team, and went to the assistance of a motorcyclist, who had been involved in a collision with a car. Simon ascertained the casualty was in severe shock, bleeding profusely and had broken

his pelvis. Once the medical team arrived he was able to give a comprehensive briefing. He remained at the scene, helping out until the man's condition had been stabilised.

Presentation

Now Simon has received a Commendation for his life-saving actions. It was presented to him on board Royal Fleet Auxiliary Fort Austin, in which he has been serving as Flight Deck

Officer for the Orient 92 deployment.

Flag Officer Naval Aviation, Rear-Admiral Colin Cooke-Priest, praised Simon's "initiative, calmness and professionalism" in the Commendation, saying his response had helped save the man's life.

The Commendation was presented to Simon by the Captain of RFA Fort Austin, Capt. David Lench (pictured above).

THE REV. James Weatherhead, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland since 1985, has been named as the Moderator-Designate.

Mr. Weatherhead (61), who became a minister in 1960, performed his National Service in the Royal Navy. He was an Acting Sub-Lieutenant in HMS Eagle, the RN flagship at the time of the Suez Crisis.

WHEN Navy pilot Lieut. Neill Stephenson took an 819 Squadron Sea King to a school fair in Stockton, he was put in mind of home. One of the pupils he met at the Ian Ramsey C. of E. School was Julia Hall, great-niece six times removed of Capt. James Cook. As Neill pointed out, he was born in Gisborne, New Zealand, the site of Capt. Cook's first landing in 1769.

THE RN's first female SD Instructor Officer continues to set high standards to meet. Sub-Lieut. Jan Estall came top of her course at the Royal Naval Staff College at Greenwich, receiving a Herbert Lott award in recognition of the achievement.

GORDON and Jackie Meese, from the West Midlands, have paid a nostalgic return visit to HMS Collingwood in which both served during their naval careers.

Mr. Meese came to the establishment in 1941 when he completed basic training as a signalman. He returned in 1945 after active service, prior to leaving the Navy.

Jackie served as a Leading Cook in HMS Collingwood's Chiefs' Mess from 1943 to 1946. But she and Gordon did not meet in Collingwood. They got together while on leave in their home town of Dudley.

DON'T SPEND IT ALL AT ONCE!

HAVING spent so long working with and for submariners at FOSM Northwood, Capt. Andy Lewis (right) was felt to be well overdue for Submarine Pay.

So HMS Superb's commanding officer, Lieut.-Cdr. Simon Williams, invited him on board for a crash course in what every submariner needs to know.

In his time in the boat, Capt. Lewis was quizzed on Basic Sea Safety and tasked to show the wardroom movie, help out on the lower level of the engine room, bake bread and get his head down in the afternoon. He earned his honorary "Dolphins" and £3.72 in Submarine Pay.

HMS Superb enjoyed looking after the man who has done so much for the Flotilla over the years and would welcome him back... once he's mastered the art of showing movies.



RECORDER TRIO



HAVING completed Part II of their seamanship training, Wrens Claire Balkwill, Penny Curtis and Joanne Hind (pictured l-r) have passed out from HMS Raleigh as the first female Survey Recorders. Next stop is

HMS Drake before they move on to their first ship, Coastal Survey Vessel HMS Roebuck. There, they will log and process hydrographic data before it is despatched to the Hydrographic Office at Taunton.

REUNIONS SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

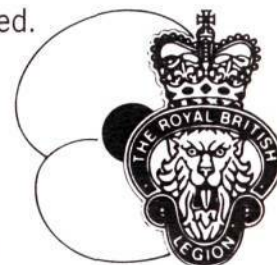
For some, the thought of leaving the forces is a daunting prospect. How will you cope leaving behind old haunts, old routines not to mention old mates? Fortunately, there's a way to keep in touch with the past and look to the future – The Royal British Legion.

With 1000 clubs nationwide you can always find somewhere to reminisce, play sport and enjoy an evening's entertainment with people from similar backgrounds to your own.

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of school such as City Technology Colleges. You may also want to know more about the Local Management of Schools and learn precisely what your new rights and responsibilities are as a parent.

The leaflets below describe these changes. They are all free – so if you would like to know more, here's the form. Fill in and send the coupon to:

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Parent's Charter: Children With Special Needs ☐ SCH2 015

Grant-Maintained Schools: Questions Parents Ask ☐ SCH4 008

Grant-Maintained Schools: Experiences During the First Year ☐ SCH4 007

Your Child and the National Curriculum: A Parent's Guide to what is taught in Schools ☐ SCH3 003

How is Your Child Doing at School: A Parent's Guide to Tests and Reports for 7-Year-Olds ☐ SCH4 029

How is Your Child Doing at School: A Parent's Guide to Tests and Reports for 14-Year-Olds ☐ SCH4 030

Education Into the Next Century (A brief guide

to the Government's very latest education proposals) ☐ SCH4 033

The Assisted Places Scheme (advice on how to obtain financial assistance for your child to attend an independent school) ☐ SCH4 005

An Introduction to Vocational Qualifications ☐ FHE2 020

Student Grants and Loans (A brief guide 1992/93) ☐ FHE3 501

Awards for Families of UK Citizens and EC Students Working Overseas factsheet ☐ FHE3 506

Send this coupon to: DFE Publications

Centre, PO Box 2193, London E15 2EU, UK.



Recognition for Nuclear experience

MANY Submariner Senior Rates will be delighted that once they have one year's experience as a Nuclear Chief of the Watch, their experience and qualifications now receive formal civilian recognition.

Following a visit by the Institute of Marine Engineers and the Institute of Nuclear Engineers to the Nuclear Training Group at HMS Sultan, the Nuclear Propulsion Operators Course and the Nuclear Propulsion Charge Course were recommended to be accredited as meeting the academic requirements for Incorporated Engineer.

The Nuclear Chief of the Watch flotilla board has also been accepted as meeting the requirements for

engineering training and as an alternative to the Institute's professional review, so that one year's experience as a qualified Nuclear Chief of the Watch completes the package and allows any CCMEA who has attended the Nuclear Propulsion Charge Course in the past or in the future to apply for Incorporated Engineer.

Full details are being published in a DCI.

Coventry in Carolina

TYPICAL southern hospitality was the order of the day when HMS Coventry arrived in Wilmington, North Carolina, for a short visit.

To a rousing welcome from cheerleaders and a marching band from a local school her commanding officer, Capt. Stephen Saunders, who visited Wilmington previously while serving in HMS Sirius, accepted gifts from the city.

As the first ship to visit Wilmington with Wrens embarked, much curiosity was aroused which resulted in the ship being inundated with invitations to experience local hospitality.

As well as the usual host of activities, which included many sporting events, HMS Coventry ran the gauntlet of Trick or

Treat on Halloween Night and witnessed, at close quarters, the US presidential elections.

The ship also opened to the public and attracted over 4,000 visitors, many of whom had driven for hundreds of miles.

HMS Coventry returned to the UK last month and will re-deploy to the Gulf in January.

Taunton re-opening

MINISTER for the Armed Forces Mr Archie Hamilton has unveiled a plaque commemorating the official re-opening of Dalrymple Block at the Hydrographic Office, in Taunton.

Other guests at the ceremony included the Mayor of Taunton Deane, Cllr. Mrs. M. Dickson and Capt. R. E. Lloyd, Naval Deputy Lieutenant, (for the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset).

The building, named after Alexander Dalrymple, the first Hydrographer to the Navy, needed upgrading to meet current fire regulations, and while it was unoccupied a major refurbishment programme was also carried out, to provide a high quality facility capable of meeting the Hydrographic Office's needs into the next century.

The Hydrographic Office is currently preparing for its bicentennial celebrations in 1995.

marched through the streets of Guernsey arriving at the Foulton Cemetery for a Remembrance Service.

Throughout the weekend HMS Sirius was anchored off St. Peter Port and many of the ship's company took advantage of the tax free shopping! A full sporting programme was also organised allowing the ship's sportsmen and women the chance to challenge local teams.

Channel Island ceremonies

BEFORE sailing south to the Mediterranean HMS Sirius visited Guernsey to perform Guardship duties to the Charybdis Weekend ceremonies, held annually in memory of those who lost their lives when the cruiser Charybdis and the destroyer Limbourne were sunk by German E-Boats off the Channel Islands in 1943.

The ship provided the guard for the Charybdis Parade which

Marines team up with Orient 92

ON arrival in the Middle East on the return leg of the Orient 92 deployment, the UK On-Call Task Group was joined by a Royal Marines Protection Party from 45 Commando Group based in Arbroath, the aim of their three week visit being to complete practical training at sea and to foster closer links between Navy and Marines.



Photo by CPOMEA Andy Dixon

Photo — the RM Protection Party practise boarding HMS Norfolk from a Pacific craft while underway.

The party embarked first in HMS Norfolk, the first time Royal Marines have sailed in a Duke-class frigate, where they rapidly familiarised themselves with the ship before starting their training, including fast roping descents from the ship's Lynx helicopter to various positions on the upper deck and superstructure, boarding the ship from a Pacific inflatable craft whilst still underway, small arms firings and the chance to act as aimers for the ship's 30mm guns.

After a week in HMS Norfolk, they transferred to RFAs Fort Austin and Olwen and then on to HMS Invincible and HMS Newcastle.

The RM Protection Party consists of two six-man teams led by Lieut Alan Littler RM and Sgts Jim McKay and Will Wilson. Their function is to provide protection for ship's naval parties when called upon to board possibly unfriendly merchant ships, going ahead first with the aim of clearing the upper deck, taking control of the bridge and securing the accommodation to enable the naval party to carry out its task with the minimum of danger and the maximum co-operation from the merchantman's crew.

From next April the Protection Party becomes part of a Fleet Standby Rifle Company, on call to deploy to Royal Navy ships at any time to deal with boarding duties, protected evacuations or other operations ashore.

WARTIME ROMANCE

"FORCES' Sweethearts", an exhibition of the Imperial War Museum in London, will feature true-life love stories, told through love letters, poems and love tokens, wartime wedding dresses, made from everything from lace to parachute silk, along with the Forces' pin-ups — film stars and singers.

The exhibition, which should appeal to all ages, opens in February, next year.

Pension change under fire

EX-SERVICE people suffering deafness caused by gunfire who claim a pension after next month will not get one if their disability is assessed at less than 20 per cent.

At present they get a lump sum of between £1,459 and £5,666. A weekly sum of £17.80 is paid to those assessed over the 20 per cent threshold — but this will be increased as the planned system of rank additions is done away with, bringing all ranks up to officer level, with attendant rises of 84p to £5 per week that will benefit 200,000 existing pensioners.

The new system has been at-

tacked by the Royal British Legion, as "robbing Peter to pay Paul".

Chairman Ted Jobson arguing that although the proposals were designed to bring war pension payments into line with the Industrial Injury Benefit Scheme the war pension was not, in the Legion's view, a State Benefit, but compensation arising from active service.

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES



Photo, above — newly-qualified, LA(Phot)s Steve Bell, left, and Mark Hipkin hear all about the F24 Air Camera from Les Frankham during the visit to the museum at the Joint Services' School of Photography, Cosford.

CALLING all ex-pusser's photos — the search is on for all of those who bore the nickname of "snaps" throughout their naval careers to enrol them in the newly-formed Naval Photographers' Association.

The Association is aiming to reunite all those who served in the Photographic Branch, from the 1930s through to the 90s, either as ratings or officers, and details can be obtained from Ian Wrightson, 3 Green Walk, Fareham, Hampshire (enclosing sae please.)

Among the first to be recruited to the new Association was Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, Les Frankham, a Navy phot throughout the Second World War, serving in the carriers Victorious and Formidable, who set himself up in business on de-mob and went on to become one of the foremost camera repair specialists in the country.

Les and his wife Peggy (herself an ex-Wren photographer) were guests at the Joint Services' School of Photography when the latest course of naval photos completed their training.

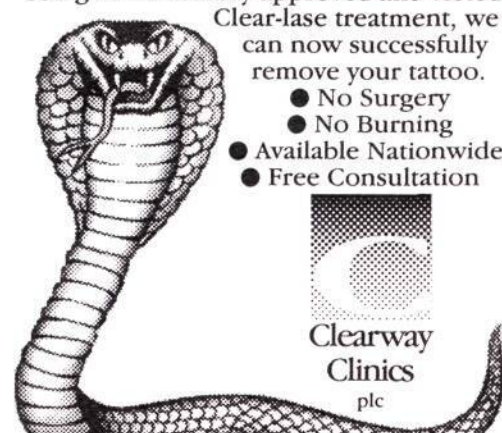
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FOSNI DIVERS EARN ADMIRAL'S AWARD

STEPPING into his father's shoes is young Brent Ince whose Dad, Lieut. David Ince, runs FOSNI's Clearance Diving Unit.

Work undertaken by the unit has been officially recognised with the presentation of a commendation by FOSNI Vice Admiral Sir Hugo White.

The diving unit, which has a wide ranging responsibility for explosive ordnance disposal and clearance from the Outer Hebrides and the Shetland Isles to the north of England, has, during the last two years, been continuously engaged in physically arduous, professionally demanding and sometimes dangerous work.

In addition to routine diving and underwater engineering tasks in support of the Fleet, they have responded to over 50 emergency calls, often at night and in adverse weather conditions, to deal with live ordnance recovered by fishing vessels or washed ashore.



Sign up for Arctic winter

EXPEDITION Arctic Wolf, the Joint Services expedition to Ellesmere Island in 1994, is now looking for volunteers of all rates and ranks.

The expedition will carry out scientific research in the Blue and Blackwelder Mountains on the north west coast of the island, which is uninhabited except for a small Inuit Eskimo settlement, a meteorological station and an airstrip.

Deployment to the Blue Mountain area will be in mid-May 1994 by Twin Otter aircraft and the recovery will be in

mid-August.

Participants will experience the latter part of an Arctic winter, living in tents and snow trenches, and the short Arctic summer when biting mosquitos swarm.

DCI (JS 92/92) provides further information — interviews are to be held in May 1993 and the final team selected from a shortlist.

Life is Rosia for Beagle

WHILE undergoing a busy SMP in Gibraltar, HMS Beagle carried out a full survey of Rosia Bay where, tradition has it, Lord Nelson's body, preserved in rum, was landed after his victory at the Battle of Trafalgar.

The ship's surveying team, led by the commanding officer, Lieut.-Cdr. John Partington, spent almost a week surveying the historic bay in glorious sunny weather, a welcome change for the ship's company who are more used to the rough, inhospitable waters of the North Sea. Having first used three GPS satellite receivers set high up on the Rock to establish precisely where the bay is on the earth's surface, HMS Beagle's survey

launch Fitzroy was used to run lines across the bay recording the depths as she went.

When this task had been completed, a hull-mounted side scan was used to establish the texture of the bottom.

Onboard processing of the results continued during the passage home and records were landed to the Hydrographic Office, in Taunton, just nine days after the survey began.

Swop draft

A RAF Harrier Jump Jet which won its class in the 1969 Daily Mail Transatlantic air race has now finished its flying days and has been transferred to see service with the Royal Navy at RN air station Culdrose.

The Harrier XV741 will be used to taxi up and down the air station's dummy deck, a concrete replica of an Invincible class carrier's flight deck, training aircraft handlers in the precise, and potentially dangerous, art of manoeuvring fast jets in cramped conditions.

College Beats Retreat

TO celebrate the 50th anniversary of Eastbourne College, the former Torpedo Training School HMS Marlborough from 1945-47, the commanding officer of the present HMS Marlborough, Cdr. Peter Eberle, was invited to take the salute at Beating Retreat.

Following the parade, attended by representatives of the ship's company and past members of the college, a cake in the shape of the ship's badge was cut by the youngest rating from the Type 23 frigate and a cadet from the college.

Three cadets from the RN section of the College Combined Cadet Force were later invited to spend the day on board HMS Marlborough on exercises in the Channel.

Drivers praise 'brave efforts'

TWO sailors from Plymouth who attempted to save the life of their civilian driver have won the praise of his colleagues at Devonport's Supply and Transport Service.

When the 56-year-old driver suffered a heart attack on the way to Mount Wise RO Anthony Carne grabbed the wheel and brought the mini-bus to a halt. While he radioed for help WREN(OPS) Angie Philipson attempted to revive the driver by giving him heart massage.

Sadly the man later died but his fellow drivers presented RO Carne and Wren Philipson with watches in appreciation of their brave efforts.

Mercury on parade



FIELD Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, pictured inspecting HMS Mercury's Ceremonial Guard with Guard Officer Lieut. Martin Melville-Brown, visited the establishment to take the salute at Full Ceremonial Divisions.

Field Marshal Vincent, accompanied by Lady Vincent, also spoke to the Passing Out classes and their families in addition to presenting Long Service, Good Conduct and Gulf Medals.

HMS Mercury, the RN's school of communications, is due to close next year.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*



THE ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION AND BA 93



The Association which is for all serving and former serving personnel of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, WRNS and QARNNS.

The RNA has been tasked with administering the ex service participation in the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Atlantic due to be held in Liverpool over the period of 26th May 1993 until 31st May, 1993.

For full details of RNA Membership and/or details of BA'93 complete the slip below.

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82 Chelsea Manor Street, London SW3 5QJ

Eight Pillars of Data Protection

THE Data Protection Act 1984 gives statutory rights to people about whom information is recorded on computer.

They may find out information about themselves; challenge inaccurate data and have it corrected; and seek compensation in certain circumstances. The Act places obligations on those who record and use personal data and they must be open about that use — through the Data Protection Register — and follow sound and proper principles.

In general, the Act applies to personal information processed by computer, ranging from comprehensive personnel records on a major mainframe computer to a simple list of names and telephone numbers on an "electronic organiser".

Strict conditions

Personal information which is processed automatically by other electronic equipment, such as telephone logging equipment, automatic microfiche readers and optical character recognition devices, may also come under the Act's jurisdiction.

The Act applies to all personal information in directories, distribution lists and organisation diagrams, as well as the more obvious personnel type records.

There are situations where automatically processed personal information is exempt, but these are subject to strict conditions and in practice apply in few cases.

The announcement goes on to provide information on notification of information to the MOD Data Protection Office. Outlined too are the responsibilities of staff with access to personal information who must abide by eight principles of good practice, which are listed.

DCI(Gen) 255/92

Second impression



"The watermark is a bike tyre tread pattern!"

IN LINE with MOD policy, all demands for copying paper are now being met by a recycled product.

The selected paper was introduced following extensive testing. Any users experiencing problems with copiers in the use of this paper, should report it.

DCI(Gen) 254/92

Now that's the Blues

VOLUNTEERS are required for a scientific expedition to the Blue Mountains, Ellesmere Island, Arctic Canada, between



Get Wise on DCIs



May-August 1994.

It will provide an opportunity for Servicemen and women to combine adventurous training with scientific fieldwork in a remote and little explored polar wilderness.

DCI(JS) 92/92

Rings with praise

WHEN HMS Caledonia closed, the Wardroom passed to HMS Sultan a number of silver napkin rings engraved with the Caledonia crest and the inscription "Best Candidate SD(ME) QPE Sub-Lieutenant."

Each year the Captain of HMS Sultan awards a napkin ring to the most successful ex-Caledonia apprentice gaining the highest marks in the SD(E) (ME) (MESM) qualifying professional examination. The napkin ring is engraved with the winner's name and the year in which he was awarded the prize.

The winner for 1991, now announced, is Sub-Lieut. N. A. Bryce (MESM).

DCI(RN) 257/92

PUT ON THE METTLE FOR MEDALS

IN recognition of its links with the Royal Navy, the Worshipful Company of Engineers has approved the award of two medals in April each year, one to an officer and one to a rating, under CINCFLEET's command.

Candidates are to have displayed outstanding attributes in one or more of the following areas: innovations; engineering management skills; justified engineering risk taking in order to maintain operational availability; achieved noteworthy financial savings without detriment to military capability or operational efficiency; achieved noteworthy improvements to cost effectiveness through an increase in military capability and/or financial savings.

Candidates must be officer or ratings of the RN engineering specialisations, appointed in a seagoing billet under the command of one of the operational Type Commanders.

Selection will be made by CSO(S) on behalf of CINCFLEET. The selection will be made from candidates submitted by FOSF, FOSM, COMMW, FONA and (from 1993) CGRM. One candidate for each medal may be submitted annually by each Type Commander to CINCFLEET and nominated by written citation.

The award of the 1992 medals will be made at the Worshipful Company of Engineers' installation dinner on April 27, 1993.

DCI(RN) 267/92



"Fancy a Wooden Spanner from a less-than-worshipful Salthorse, Chief?"

ADQUALS listed

RATING ADQUALS in the Supply and Secretariat Branch are the subject of an announcement which provides the current list and will subsequently be published annually in the RN Supply School course catalogue.

The aim is to establish a definitive mechanism for administration of the ADQUALS involved and the eight-digit code system used to identify them will be standardised in line with RNSS course designators.

Procedures for updating schemes of complement and the awarding and recording of the ADQUALS are laid down in the announcement.

DCI(RN) 255/92

Dependable fund

ABOUT 94 per cent of those eligible were members of the RN and RM Officers' Dependents' Fund at July 31, 1991, while about 99 per cent of eligible personnel were members of the corresponding ratings' fund.

Total membership of the officers' fund stood at 9,378, with membership of the ratings' fund at 51,504.

In the case of both funds a maximum grant of £3,000 was paid to the dependants of subscribers who died during the year. (The grant was increased to £3,250 from April 1, 1992).

In the case of the officers' fund the annual subscription remains unchanged at £2.40 (held at this rate since 1985). The ratings' subscription is unchanged at £1.80 (held since 1981).

All subscribers are reminded of their responsibility to inform the Secretary, RNDF, HMS Centurion, of changes of dependant as they occur.

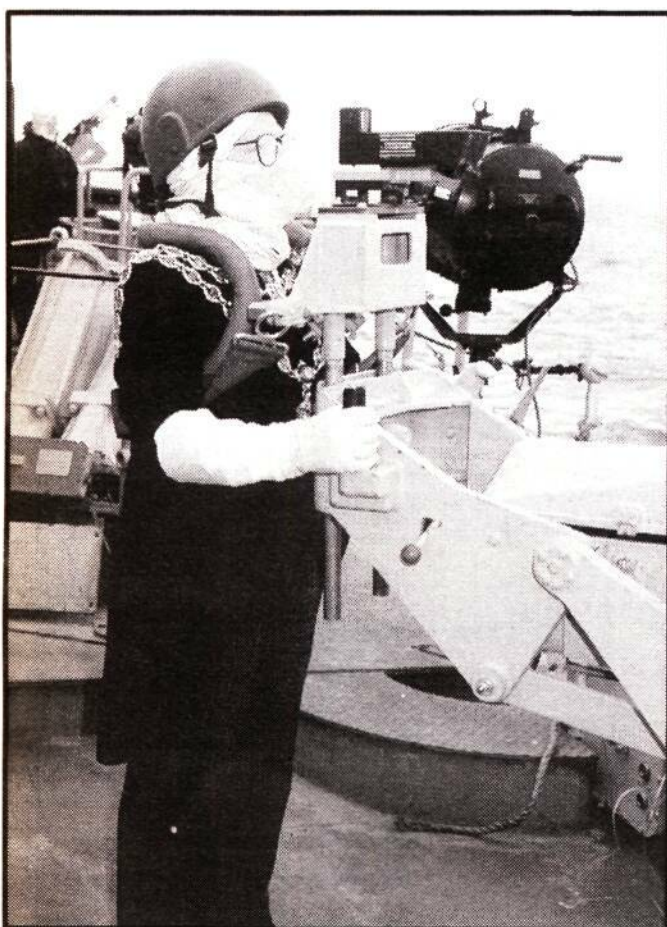
DCI(RN) 277/92

Booking up ahead

THE series of familiarisation visits to the Services Booking Centre continues on a permanent basis and dates for the period Jan-June 1993 are listed.

The visits are for military and civilian SBC users involved in or responsible for submission of applications for travel.

DCI(Gen) 256/92



Brum's big gun

THE Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Cllr Peter Barwill, takes aim with one of HMS Birmingham's 20mm guns during a day at sea for the Type 42 destroyer's affiliates.

Links with Britain's Second City are particularly strong and representatives from the Midland Naval Association, Birmingham Nautical Club, RNR Forward and the Sea Cadet units TS Sherbourne and Stirling were welcomed aboard together with ACORNS, the ship's charity and 5 Sqn Royal Air Force.

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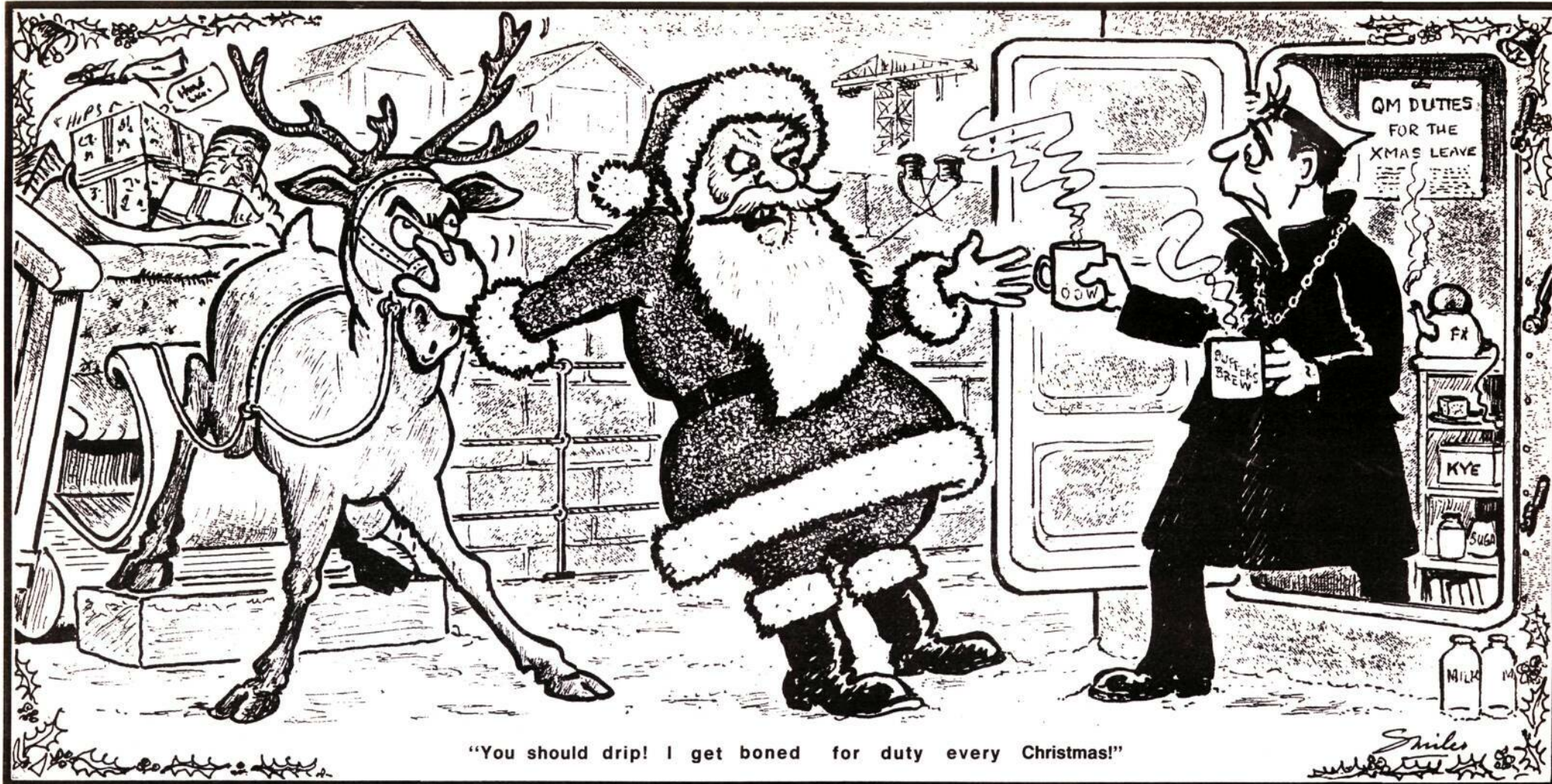
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"You should drip! I get boned for duty every Christmas!"

Smiles

NEWSVIEW

Looking back on year's mix

IF Her Majesty has had a "horrible year", what is a fair description of the 12 months just experienced by the Royal Navy?

Perhaps it could best be described as "mixed", with a blend of operational achievement accompanied by a less welcome undertow of uncertainty over dockyards and bases; a programme (happily reasonably limited) of redundancy, together with reduced promotion prospects; and suspension of a salary award recommendation for next year to fall in line with the general limitation on public service pay.

The now-announced proposed move of Operational Sea Training from Portland to Devonport is recognised by the Navy as having personal implications for those who have settled in the Portland area, as is the important role the base has played in naval operations and research over many years, plus the significant contribution made by local communities. In all this, the welcome news as far as Portland is concerned is that the air station is to remain.

Against this background, RN and RM personnel have continued to serve in the widest variety of places at home and abroad, including taking part in the important Orient deployment; Armilla patrol work; Falkland and West Indies commitments; contributing to UN work in Cambodia; keeping a "watching brief" in the Adriatic as the disaster of the former Yugoslavia unfolds; and operations and visits in the areas of the old Iron Curtain countries.

Meanwhile, moves which remain to come include organisational changes to take place over the next few years. Hopefully, the "can do" spirit will, as ever, shine through the vicissitudes.

... and a mixed blessing?

ACCORDING to some reports, naval cooks are to be banned from stirring giant Christmas pudding mixtures with wooden oars. By custom these huge "spoons" have helped produce the massive Christmas puds which, with touches of rum and stout, have helped enrich the festive season.

Now apparently new EC hygiene regulations have condemned the oars as a health risk, and plastic versions have to be used. One officer is quoted as saying that the varnished wooden paddles, long since found the best mixers, had not been in the sea and were simply lent by stores to the kitchens.

So, it seems, someone sticks an oar into another naval custom. Enough to make an old sea dog stir in his last resting place.

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed for introduction of the Services Home Savings Scheme, which comes into effect from December 1 this year.

This "one for three scheme" was first announced last February, since when the four financial institutions which will be involved have been selected after intensive competition.

Aimed to help Service personnel buy their own homes, the scheme is open to those who have served three years and do not already own a home. If they save regularly for at least five years, with monthly contributions from £50 to £200, then, when they buy a home, MOD will give them £1 for every £3 they have saved, including interest earned on their savings.

Announcing completion of the arrangements, Armed Forces Minister Mr. Archie Hamilton said the four financial institutions selected to operate the scheme would offer competitive rates on the savings deposited with them.

He also said that explanatory brochures about the scheme would be available for Service personnel, adding, "The introduction of this new scheme represents a significant step forward to improving the opportunities for Service personnel to become home owners."

The four institutions selected to operate the scheme are the Bank of Scotland, Gartmore Money Management, the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, and the Skipton Building Society.

Guaranteed

Among Royal Navy personnel the percentage of home ownership is considerably greater than in the other Services. However, the new scheme may prove of interest to many who do not own homes, encouraging people to begin saving early for eventual home ownership, with the grant being made available by the Government.

Once a saver has regularly saved for a minimum of five years and uses all the savings and interest accrued to purchase a home while still serving, he or she will be able to claim the additional amount known as the Home Savings Allowance (HSA). This will be taxable but the sum received will be grossed up for the tax payable.

As HSA is based on the MIRAS scheme, it may change if there are

significant changes to the MIRAS rate or basic rate of income tax. Any change in rate, however, will only apply to savings and interest earned after the rate change.

The four institutions involved in the new scheme have guaranteed to offer minimum compounded annual interest rates at or just above the bank base rate.

Servicemen and women who save under the scheme can, after having completed three years of service and then saved for five years, choose when they want to claim the allowance, there being no time limit.

The savings can continue and the allowance they will receive will continue to grow until the time is right for them to buy a home.

The grant will be available only for the purchase of a home and where the property is the only and

main residence and not a mobile home or caravan.

People will not be able to take advantage of both the Services Home Savings Scheme and the Royal Navy's Long Service Advance of Pay Scheme, which many use as a deposit for house purchase.

If a naval Serviceman or woman takes part in the new scheme for five years or more and wishes to purchase a property, he or she will have the choice of claiming HSA or applying for LSAP. Which is

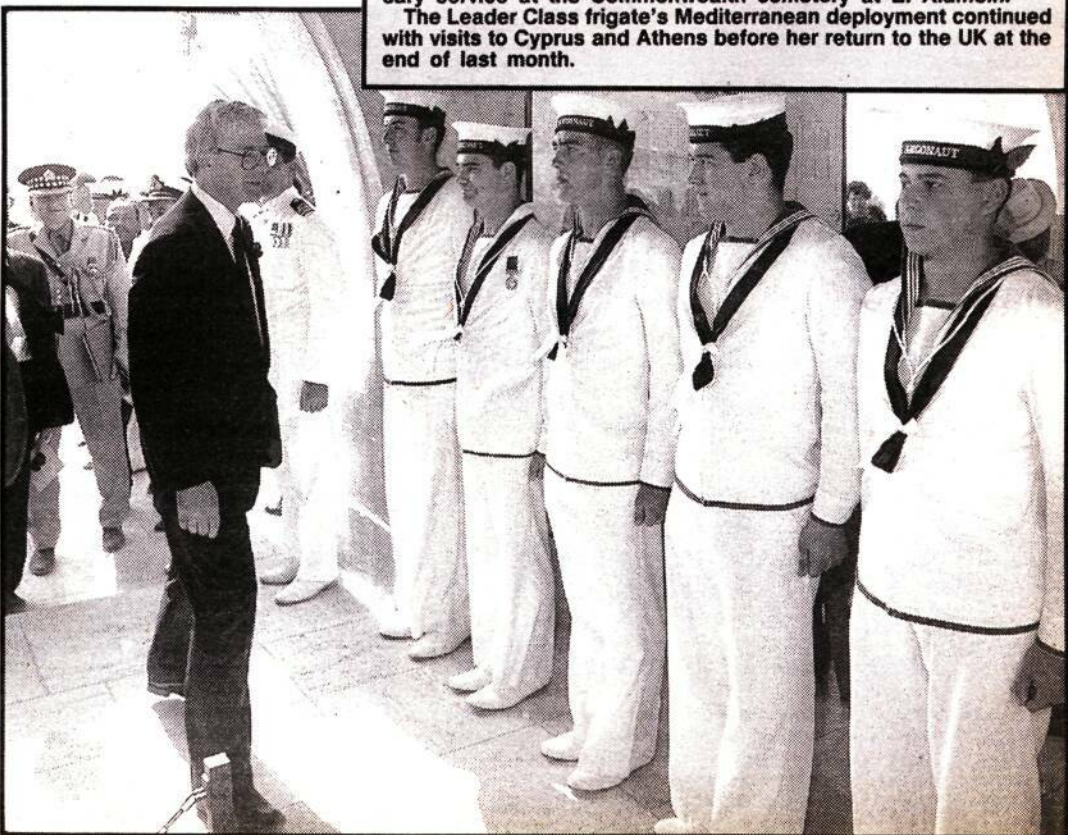
most advantageous at that time will depend on a number of factors, including how much has been saved and personal circumstances including future naval career.

In many cases, the longer the person has saved under the new scheme the bigger the advantage over LSAP. If, however, the decision is to seek LSAP the money accrued in the Home Savings Scheme is repayable to the individual as a lump sum, with interest added — but without the one-for-three allowance.

Argonaut at Alamein

PRIME Minister John Major chats with men from HMS Argonaut who provided rigging parties, ushers, wreath layers, a step lining party — and medical support in the heat of the desert as thousands of veterans attended the Royal British Legion 50th anniversary service at the Commonwealth cemetery at El Alamein.

The Leader Class frigate's Mediterranean deployment continued with visits to Cyprus and Athens before her return to the UK at the end of last month.



Blue water ups and downs

GULF WAR in South Carolina — that was the scenario for Fleetex 931, the workup of the USN Carrier Battlegroup ably assisted by the Royal Navy's Westlant deployment.

Over a six day period HMS Ark Royal, escorted by HMS Exeter, HMS Triumph and RFAs Olmeda and Regent, co-ordinated anti-submarine cover for a simulated amphibious assault.

The embarked Naval Air Squadrons scored some notable successes. 801's handful of FRS1 Sea Harriers integrated with their 100-odd US counterparts with remarkable ease — on several occasions they were the only aircraft airborne to deal with the threats thrown up by the opposition.

Later they had a week's flying against the F18 Hornet — and time and again all the US aircraft were "shot down" without the loss of a single Harrier in return.

Meanwhile 820's ASW Sea Kings have been busy with Trial Punish off Andros Island in the Bahamas, putting in over 120 hours in the sky tracking the "enemy" intruder, nuclear-powered Fleet submarine HMS Triumph.

With the new night sonar dipping capability fully operational, several of the crews had their first taste of submarine hunting in the dark, fully loaded, fully armed.

● Right — Type 42 destroyer HMS Exeter leads (left to right) RFA Olmeda, HMS Ark Royal and RFA Regent with (inset) HMS Triumph.

● Top right — HMS Ark Royal's "Girl Guards" line up for a ceremonial departure from Nassau.

● Below — Sonar dipping with an 820 Naval Air Squadron Sea King — and scuba diving in the Bahamas. Flying the flag on the South West Reef are (left to right) Lieut.-Cdr Andy Jackman, Lieut. Wayland Austin, Sub Lieut. Dave Loosely, AB Dave Eccles, LMT Dave Brayshaw and LA(Phot) Tommo Thompson.



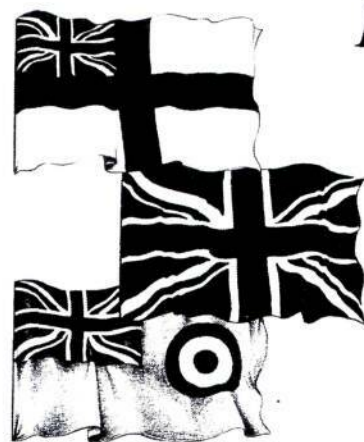
Pictures: PO(Phot) Chris North



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Fighting Temeraire

Sports building boom beats the bite on cash

Pictures (clockwise from top left):

● HMS Temeraire — nerve centre of the Navy's new sports and fitness drive.

● Traditional club swinging from Acting LPTs Jason Wallace (front), Dean McConville and Grant Williams.

● Thrusting ahead — Musician Ross Perkin (right) takes on Lieut.-Cdr. Graham Trehwella in the epee section of the RH Fencing Championships at HMS Sultan.

● Fight stars — Sgt Leo Toms (left) and Cpl Steve Fulthorpe.

● Abseiling in the Brecon Beacons.

● Wrens at sea hope to stay dry most of the time — but a good hosing down is welcome after the obstacle course at Fort Bouldnor, Isle of Wight.

● Ski Navy — in the Austrian Alps.

● Capt. Angus Sandford, Director of Naval Physical Training and Sport, meets Sir Gary Sobers at HMS Temeraire to discuss an RN cricket and boxing tour to Barbados next year.

● HMS Sultan's Ohlson 35 STC alongside a Fleet Tender with an apprentice at the helm — sailing is still the most popular activity.

● The fitness suite at HMS Temeraire. Within the next two years DNPTS hopes to install equipment in all major establishments, bringing in the Profile Plus fitness test as part of his drive towards a more lifestyle-conscious Navy.

● Double act — CPOPT Tommy Wallace congratulates his son Jason on successfully qualifying as a PTI this year.

● Just like the real thing — hockey on artificial turf at RNEC Manadon.

● In flight entertainment — ALWPT Nicky Morris at the passing out display before the Second Sea Lord at HMS Temeraire. Watching her progress are (left to right) CPOPT Glynn Williams, Sgt Jan Burns, RM, POPT Paul Davoile and POPT Ivan Torpey.



IN its first year of operation the Royal Navy Sports Lottery has had a turnover of almost £1m — with £300,000 given out in prizes and over £200,000 shared among sports and adventurous training projects.

The variety of these reflects a growing dynamism in the Senior Service's sports profile and the wide range of its commitment.

Ticket sales of over 21,000 a week have helped finance soccer in Hong Kong, rugby in New Zealand, Gibraltar and Spain, netball in Barbados, water polo in Moscow and a marathon team's tour to Washington.

Meanwhile public funding has enabled home-based sports facilities to expand rapidly, despite the overall stringent financial constraints, the Director of Naval Physical Training and Sport Capt Angus Sandford told Navy News.

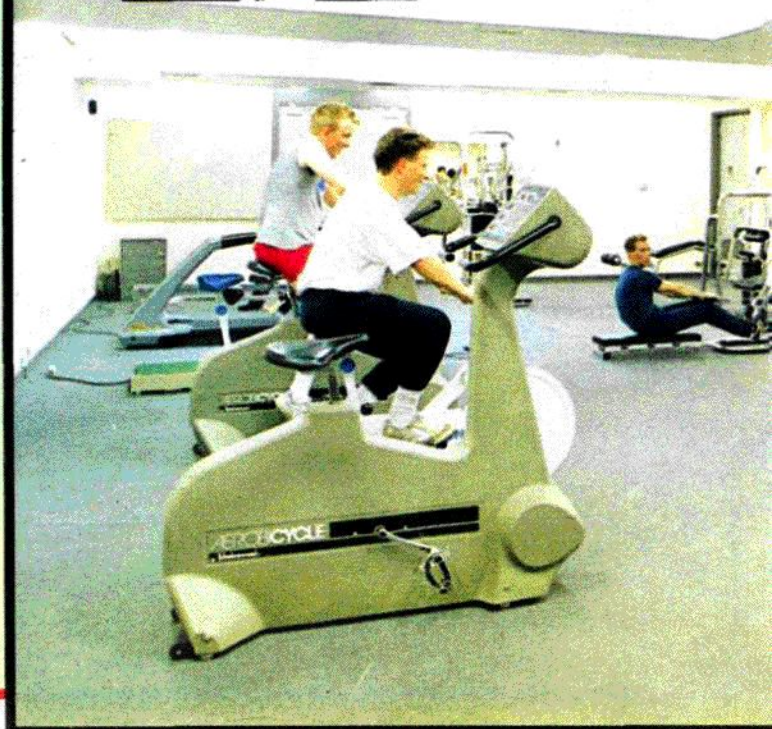
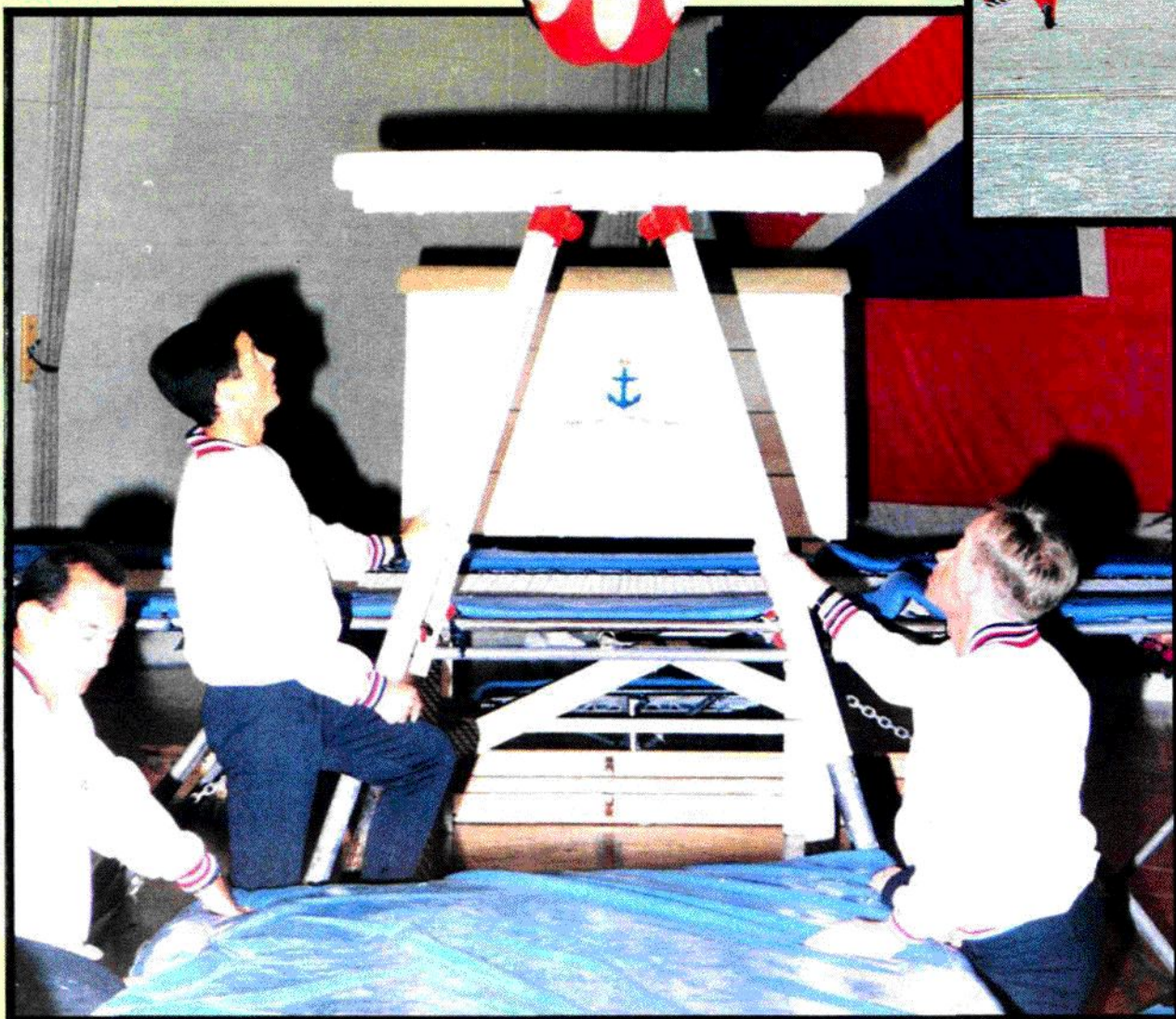
"They are now recognised as being the best in the Armed Services — and new builds are still continuing," he said.

"There are two new sports centres currently under construction at Heron and Warrior and hopefully over the next few years more will be provided at Neptune, Manadon, Gannet, Whale Island, Condor, Bickleigh and RM Stonehouse."

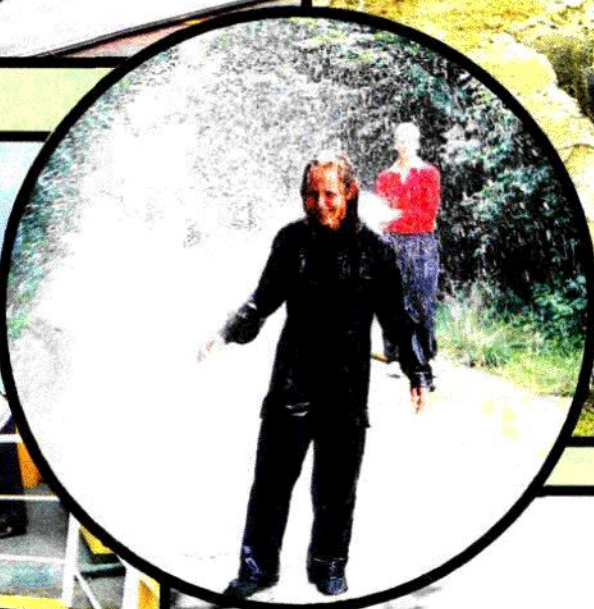
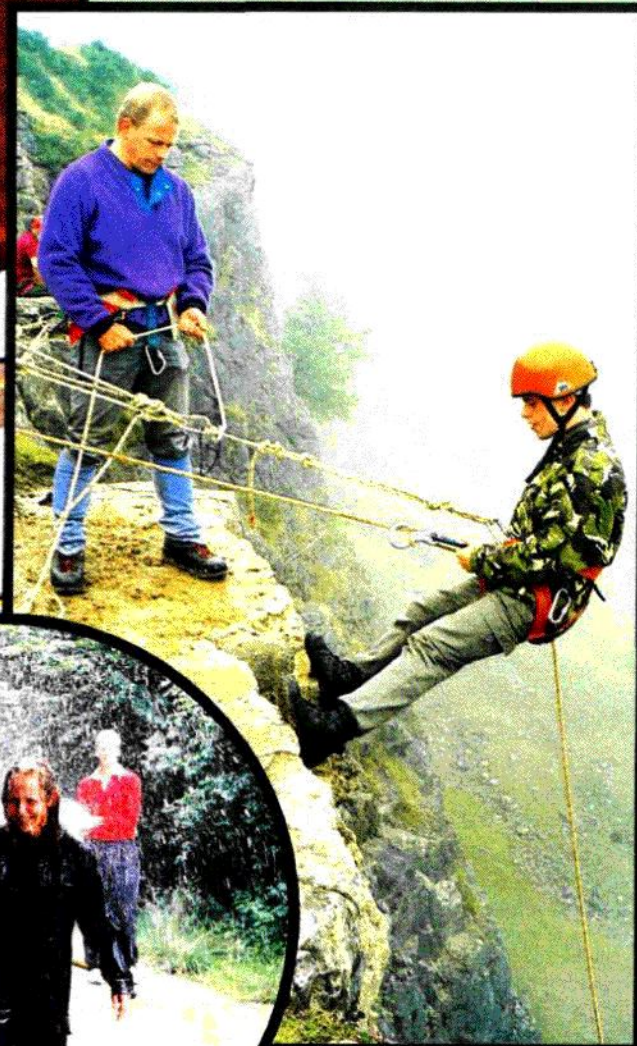
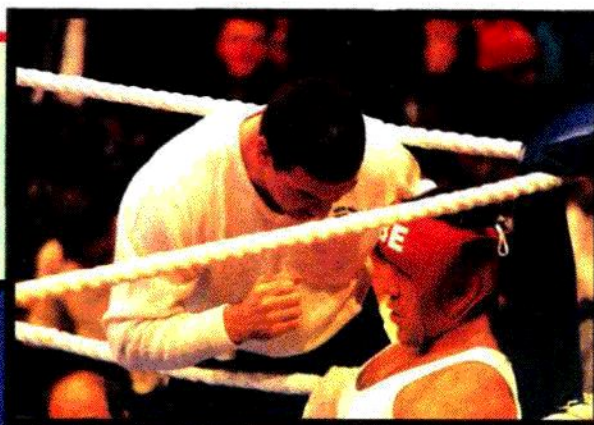
These are all SASH (Standardised Approach to Sports Hall) buildings, but two larger Physical and Recreational Training Centres are planned for HMS Drake and HMS Sultan.

Artificial turf pitches (ATPs) have been extremely popular and are now in place at HMS Osprey, Drake (over 100 matches a

Pictures:
Lieut.-Cdr. Nigel Huxtable



eraire!



month played), Manadon, Neptune, RM Stonehouse and CTCRM Lymington — which boasts the Navy's first "engineered base" ATP.

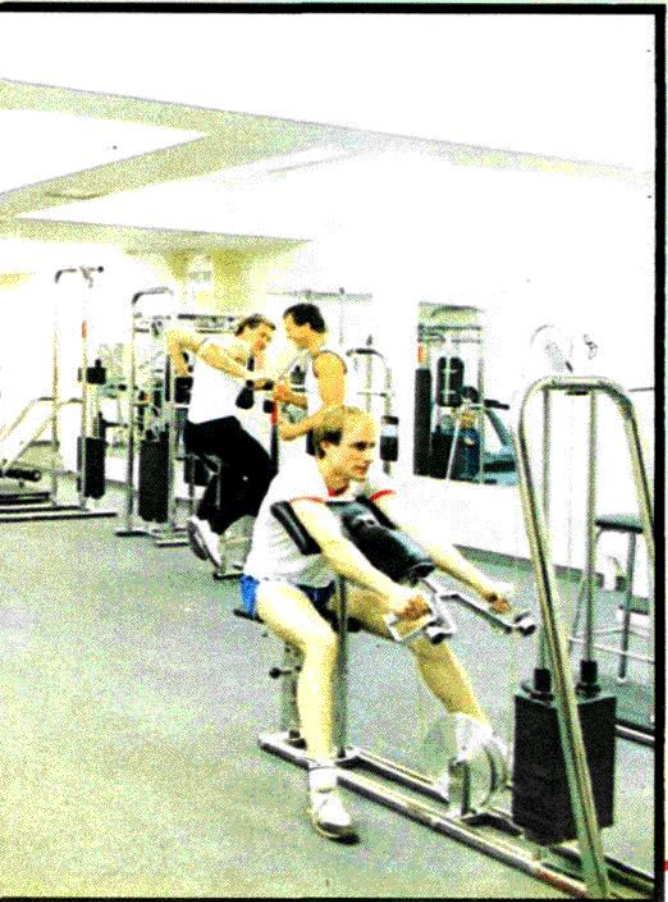
More are planned for Whale Island, HMS Sultan, HMS Dryad, BRNC Dartmouth and Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, where the athletics track has also been renewed.

Between Flag Officer Portsmouth's grounds opposite Nelson (Gunwharf) and the United Services rugby and hockey HQs, HMS Temeraire sits at the heart of all this activity. Home of the RNPT branch since the new buildings were opened by the late Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fieldhouse in its centenary year of 1988, it will soon have an indoor tennis facility that, together with two ATPs to be laid next year, floodlit soccer pitch, two sports halls, a 33 metre swimming pool, five squash courts, fitness studio, theatre and library will comprise some of the finest recreational facilities anywhere in the South of England.

Temeraire's attractions are well appreciated outside the Service. Sharron Davies used the pool for much of her pre-Olympic training and the British Trampoline squad are often in the gym. Portsmouth Football Club are regular visitors, employing the PT staff to get them into shape. RYA International sailors run an annual 10 week training programme here.

The 1991 British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall included a novel display by Temeraire-trained PTIs and several TV projects have lately underlined their expertise to a wider audience. There have been clubswinging displays on Cilla Black's "Surprise Surprise", a Christmas Day Special filmed for "You Bet" and an active involvement in a new 13-part TV production testing total physical fitness and knowledge.

At the moment Temeraire is gearing up for the 1993 Royal Tournament — a Navy lead production that will feature a window ladder display not seen at Earls Court since 1982, mast manning and hornpipe as well as the Field Gun competition and the rest of the usual crowd pullers.



While the athletic and sporting skills of ships' companies continue to show off the Navy's pride in its physical fitness during port visits around the globe, adventurous training expeds also help to export the message worldwide.

Sailing is the most sought-after activity and RN yachts have this year visited the United States while taking part in the Columbus 500 race series, with other ventures to the Canadian Lakes and the Mediterranean. One, crewed entirely by Senior Nursing Officers, took part in Venetian Venture in the Atlantic and naturally had their input christened "Exercise Florence".

Meanwhile the RNEC's yacht Galahad deployed to the CIS and Poland. Turning to smaller craft, a six-man canoe team shot the rapids in Colorado, taking part in international competitions at Vail and Durango.

Having lately acquired 15 Victoria 34s, JSASTC Gosport has never been busier and the number of expeditions mounted from here has increased significantly. At JSSADC Fort Bovisand, too, more people than ever are collecting diving qualifications.

HMS York sent a party of six to Malaysia for "Exercise Jungle Jack", climbing the highest peak in SE Asia — the 13,455 ft Mount Kinabalu — at about the same time that a team of ten from Portsmouth were scaling the Klettersteig in Austria. An all-girl team took to the Himalayas.

The message from DNPTS has never been more clear — "We've got your sort of action — come and help yourself."



INTERNATIONAL RESCUE FOR REAL

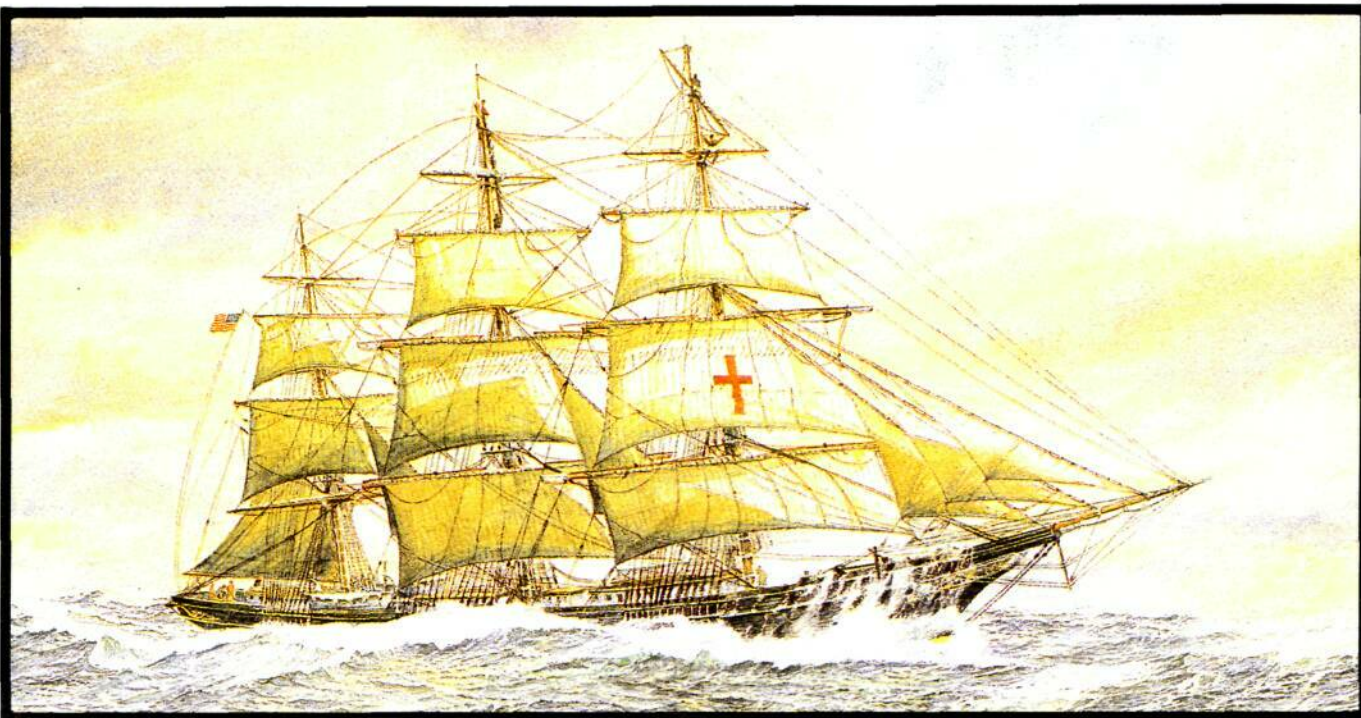
FOR A while the rescue of a sick sailor from the nuclear submarine USS Bergall was probably the most famous of all SARs — simply because it appeared in the hugely successful TV documentary "Sailor".

The fact that patient and rescuer were washed overboard and nearly came to grief under the submarine's screw was not that unusual — operations of this kind do not always pass off smoothly.

It is in the nature of search and rescue at sea that it normally occurs when the weather is at its worst. In *For Those in Peril* (Robert Hale £25) John Winton has assembled a strong selection of tales from half a century of Royal Navy SAR that mostly deal with the age old battle against the elements.

Unless they offer something special by way of place or personality, search and rescue operations are often taken for granted by press and public — even the rescued have been known to complain about the time they have been kept waiting.

Perhaps the Falklands War produced some of the most vivid encounters — the images of



Sea King helicopters hovering patiently in the dense smoke of the blazing Sir Galahad have not dimmed. Now Lieut. Philip Sheldon provides the text to go with them:

"... I'd never been so close

to flames before... every now and then there would be an explosion within the hold and you'd find yourself looking down at these balls of fire and the shock waves would physically move the aircraft.

"Tug Wilson, my crewman in the back, was unbelievable. He was incredibly calm, and suppressed his anxiety at what he was both seeing and touching... There was the standard pukka Naval chat, necessary to

position the aircraft, interspersed with 'Oh, f*** me, this guy's got no face.'

"Suddenly this injured person got pushed up to the front and I felt quite ashamed of myself, because I had to bring my-

self to actually look down at him and I thought, 'Christ — what a mess'. I felt cowardly that I was having to try and pluck up the courage to actually look at this poor chap and yet here was this guy suffering agonies..."

Vignettes like these range around the world, from the rescue of a party of explorers stranded on an Atlantic glacier to the airlift of a badly injured Borneo tribesman from his jungle village, from hurricanes in the Caribbean to revolution in Yemen, from floods in Holland to earthquakes in Greece.

It's not all weekend sailors and lost hill walkers.

Left: The Red Cross line packet Dreadnought had nothing to do with the emergency services, but might have been a regular customer for SAR, had it existed a century ago. Known as the "Wild Boat of the Atlantic" for the way she was driven by her master, she usually managed to extract herself from difficulty unaided, though. The redoubtable Captain Samuels, with one leg smashed, managed to sail her 280 miles towards the Azores... backwards.

— Taken from *Atlantic Sail* (Aurum £25), written and beautifully illustrated by Roger Morris. — JFA

Diary update

REVISED and updated to include the Falklands and Gulf Wars, the reappearance of *The Royal Navy Day by Day* (National Maritime Museum £29.95) will be welcomed by browsers and serious students alike.

First published in the 1970s, it has established itself as a favourite "gizit" for visiting naval VIPs and a handy diary reminder of the great events of yesteryear.

Now expanded by Capt Tony Sainsbury, it includes a wealth of detail on the conditions of life in peacetime as well as war over the centuries.

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At Your Leisure



Hell fire! Where's the recipe

LATEST in the Guinness list of military books, the *Encyclopedia of Weaponry* deals in the main with the bewildering legion of modern hardware — over half the entries relate to the 20th century but then, sadly, that is probably a fair division.

Ian V. Hogg traces the development of the tools of war from pre-history to the Gulf and beyond, from sticks and stones to electro-magnetic guns and plasma artillery and other futuristic projects.

Lavishly illustrated and lucidly, if at times disappointingly sparsely written the project deserved a better index.

This omits, for instance, the interesting note on Greek Fire, the ancient precursor of napalm that brought a whole new dimension to naval warfare before the secret of its composition was lost. It is now believed to have been a mixture of sulphur, pitch, naphtha and quicklime devised by Callinicus of Heliopolis in AD 668.

Liquid fire did not reappear on the battlefield until the First World War — by which time its application at sea had been rendered obsolete by armour. In the days of sail it might have been devastating.

— JFA

To mark the 50th anniversary of the "Cockleshell Heroes" operation against blockade runners at Bordeaux, the Royal Naval Philatelic Officer will be issuing a special first day cover from Gibraltar this month. Details from Charles Stirling, tel. 0935 840565.

NIGHT RAIDERS ALL BUT ANNIHILATED

COMPLETING his quartet of Kriegsmarine studies, Mike Whitley examines the E-Boats in *German Coastal Forces of World War Two* (Arms and Armour £24.99).

Actually the Germans called them S-Boats — Schnellboote. They were active in all the European theatres but, like the rest of the surface units, their history is one of isolated successes — of a valiant force overwhelmed by weight of numbers and the burden of high level command incompetence.

Derived from the torpedo boats of the Kaiser's High Seas Fleet, they were chiefly directed against the British east coast shipping routes and the vital home waters convoys.

Operating mainly at night, they roamed across the North Sea to sink or disperse convoys with gunfire and torpedoes, or to hinder coastal traffic with mines.

In the end, Allied air superiority spelled their ruin. Forced out of protective harbours in daylight by the ever more pressing demands made upon them, they fell victim to Coastal Command and were all but annihilated by the end of the war.

Editor

Minesweepers, midget submarines and other miscellaneous vessels are also included in this survey, with a wealth of rare photographs and detailed drawings.

Paintings feature strongly in *German Warships of World War 1*, the RN's official guide which has now been produced in facsimile by Greenhill Books at £35.

Norman Friedman notes that they were presumably used to avoid reproducing the backgrounds of the photographs from which they were taken — since the German fleet spent

very little of its time at sea they must have taken by agents working near the main bases.

This practice was paralleled in recent US publications on Soviet military power, in which paintings were often substituted for satellite photographs which would have likewise revealed details of time as well as place.

Rare

In this case all the pictures are by Dr Oscar Parkes, long-time Editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships*.

This impressively detailed guide was drawn from the British Naval Intelligence Confidential Books that were the Allied Navies' main source of information on the enemy. By the very absence of information, however, they reveal that none of them were aware until after the war that the Germans had used stereo rather than coincidence rangefinders — which was why British anti-rangefinder measures (the optical equivalents of jammers) had been totally unsuccessful.

— JFA



LADY Slater, wife of CINCFLEET, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, was guest stirrer at the HMS Warrior Christmas pudding mix. As the Slaters are about to leave Northwood this was her "last stir" at Warrior. Pictured (l-r) are WOCA Geoff Stephenson, CO Cdr. Michael Fickling, Lieut.-Cdr. Iain Mulligan, Lady Slater, and the establishment's youngest rating and youngest cook, JWEM Steven Lewis and JACK Ian Vickers.

At Your Leisure

Draft Board kindles a whole new ball-game

THIS month's film releases straddle four continents, plus a detour to Never Never Land, of uncertain location. But we begin in "the greatest nation in the history of the country" (how we'll miss Dan Quayle!) with a picture founded on an obscure fragment of American social history. During World War 2, it appears, baseball's ruling body responded to the virtual shutdown of their sport as players were drafted into the forces by organizing, for the duration, a women's league.

A League of Their Own is a vastly entertaining account of the triumphs enjoyed and the disasters endured by one of the teams who thus tasted — briefly — a measure of sporting glory. Prominent out there on the diamond are Geena Davis, clearly a superstar in the making, plus Madonna, for a change in her non-outrageous mode. On the male side, Tom Hanks has a ball as a dipsomaniac coach.

City of Joy refers, not necessarily in an ironic way, to Calcutta. It tells two converging stories, one (much the more interesting) details the struggle of a poverty-stricken rickshaw puller and his family to eke out an existence in the brutal, swarming slums, while the film's other thread tells of American doctor Patrick Swayze, shattered after causing the death of a child, and how

his life is eventually redeemed in these unlikely surroundings. It's the sort of film you expect

tor John Avildsen, who made the original **Rocky** and knows a thing or two about pumping up

Screen Scene

to have been adapted from a bestseller, the equivalent of a long, engrossing read.

Another cinematically unfamiliar setting: South Africa in the 1940s. **The Power of One** begins with an almost Dickensian account of an oppressed childhood: a boy of English parentage sent to a boarding school where all the other pupils (and teachers) are pro-Nazi Boers. Nothing else in the film quite matches this opening section, but the rest is efficient entertainment, with the boy growing up and carrying his struggle into the boxing ring — well-trodden ground for direc-

audience emotion.

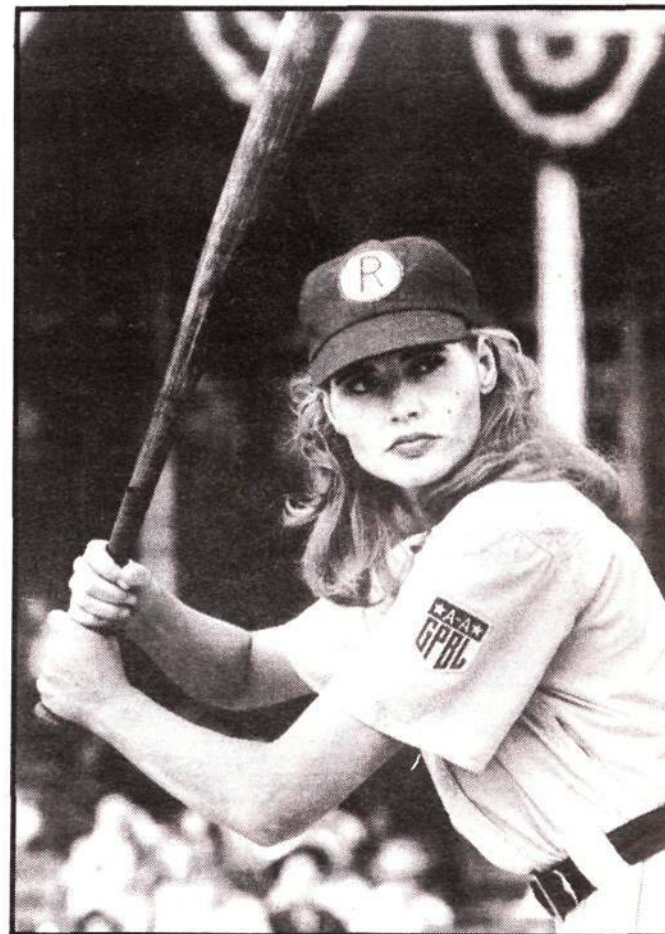
Thunderheart is a murder mystery with a novel setting: a squalid Sioux reservation in Dakota. Two FBI agents, one of them part-Indian himself, arrive to investigate and are faced, in the best traditions of the genre, with a bewildering array of suspects and motives, Val Kilmer as the confused (in more ways than one) agent, and Graham Greene (no relation to the late novelist) as a local cop are the good guys.

Hook is a revised and updated (by Steven Spielberg) version of an old pantomime classic. This is a grown-up Peter

Pan, revisiting quaint old London and finding himself drawn back towards that above mentioned piece of nebulous real estate, which one reaches via the unsuccinct direction "Second star to the right and straight on till morning." Robin Williams stars as Peter, although Dustin Hoffman's piratical sneer and Julia Roberts's legs provide the film's real centre of attention. Xmas treat.

In **House Sitter** compulsive liar and con artist Goldie Hawn erupts into the life of modest architect Steve Martin and soon both are enveloped in a web of comic confusion. The teaming up of the two stars perhaps doesn't generate the fireworks one might have anticipated, but the film is still a pleasant enough way to pass a hundred minutes.

— Bob Baker



Above: Geena Davis strikes out for super-stardom in the baseball movie *A League of Their Own*.

Trouble and strife

CHARTING the century year by year, Hamlyn's **Illustrated History of 20th Century Conflict** presents an account of the wars, battles and civil unrest which have dominated our era.

Black and white photographs bring to life the big news stories of the day and headlines give the book the feel of a newspaper. Events are described in journalistic style.

Chronologies listing key events for every year are also included, as are special features — over 40 of these cover important topics in detail.

Written by Neil Grant, this hefty hardback is priced 18.99.



Maybe one reason why the Wrens have managed to integrate into a hitherto heartily masculine service is their ability to take a joke — and they give as good as they get. Today they often out-drill the men — new recruits in 1917 "were undecided which was their left and their right."

JOLLY JILL, JENNY WREN AND DOUBTING THOMAS

THE WRNS 1917 motto "Never at Sea" had to be amended after 1990 and now Ursula Stuart Mason's diamond jubilee history has followed suit as *Britannia's Daughters* (Leo Cooper £15.95).

In 1977 the Wrens came under the Naval Discipline Act and since then have been almost totally integrated into the Royal Navy.

Since, as the author notes, the "Service within a Service" is unlikely to last much beyond its 75th anniversary and the present Director is likely to be the last, this book must be seen as just a little premature — before long the story might be wound up completely.

To say that the decision to send women to sea was "welcomed by the serving Wrens, accepted by the men" suggests it was met with equanimity. Judging from the *Navy News* postbag that was far from being the case — but it is certainly true that the "true marriage" came about remarkably quickly.

Second Sea Lord Admiral Sir Brian Brown reminded the 1990 Wrens Reunion of past occasions when sailors' wives were found at sea, even helping

load the guns at the Battle of the Nile. One woman on board HMS Tremendous gave birth to a son at the height of the battle.

"We aim to avoid this happening," he commented wryly. But then he wondered whether in 40 years' time a Wren might occupy his desk and asked "Why not? Why wait so long?"

Kettlewell

Likewise Dame Marion Kettlewell, one of several Directors (1967-70) who served with Air Command, when it was announced that volunteers were wanted to start training to fly helicopters: "Oh, I do hope I live to see the first Wren to win her wings."

There has been a rapid succession of female "firsts" over the past couple of years and perhaps *Navy News* has made overmuch of them in the light of the speed and — it has to be said — unexpectedly harmonious transition that has come about.

Even the popular Press's confidence in a rich store of scandal has fallen far short of expectations. In next to no time, it seems, the sight of "Jolly Jill"

has become a commonplace and "Jenny Wren" may soon be consigned to the history books.

Capt. Toby Elliott, commanding officer of HMS Brilliant during the Gulf War when his 20 Wrens did their bit in a 17-hour struggle to put out a fire in a merchantman, provides a fitting postscript:

"I can assure you that it is not possible to tell the difference between a man and a woman when they are dressed in Fearnought fire-fighting suits and breathing apparatus, or in action overalls and anti-flash gear. My men and women were all equally involved, acting in teams to move and operate fire pumps, run out and man the hoses and handle the heavy cutting equipment. They worked the boats, operated the flight deck, flew the helicopters, co-ordinated other forces offering assistance, provided food and first aid and comforted the survivors..."

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At Your Service



Reunions

SD. Commanders' Assn.: The annual dinner was held on board HMS Victory in October with over 1,000 years worth of experience represented. Anyone wishing to join should contact Cdr. Tony Dyer, CNSA, Foxhill, Bath. Next year's event will be held in HMS Dolphin on October 8, 1993.

Assn. of Royal Yachtsmen is holding a Christmas Ball at The Victory Club, HMS Nelson on December 5. Details from C. R. (Bert) Fassoms, 15 Royal Way, Waterloo-ville PO7 7JG (tel. 0705 267584).

RN Engine Room Assn.: The first national reunion will be held at the Nautical Club, Birmingham on May 8. Details from Bob Styant (tel. 021 427 6021).

HMS Attacker and 879 Sqn.: The second reunion will be held at the Nautical Club, Birmingham on May 14. Details from R. Phillips, 243 Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke RG22 5NB (tel. 0256 21678), enclosing s.a.e.

HMS Bullen (K469): The fifth reunion will take place at St. Edmunds Hotel, Gorleston-on-sea, Great Yarmouth on April 24. Members not already in touch contact C. W. Bilverstone, 31 Sands Lane, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft NR32 3ER (tel. 0502 561130).

HMS Punjabi: A wreath-laying service at the Naval War Memorial at Plymouth Hoe and a commemoration and dedication service at the Church of St. Nicholas, HMS Drake, will be held on April 24-25. Details from Patrick Phillips, 56 Melbury Rd., Knowle, Bristol BS4 2RP (tel. 0272 715749).

PMT Military Ball will be held at Crewe and Alsager College, Crewe Green Rd., Crewe on April 3. Details from J. G. Davies, 6 Major Court, Flag Lane, Crewe CW1 3BL (tel. 0270 257092).

Gibraltar Communicators (1979-80): Tickets for the reunion on February 20 are now available from Mac on 0705 294417 or Pusser on 0705 731153.

HMS Black Swan Assn. (1939-53): The next reunion will be held in Paignton, Devon in April. Details from John Dunstan, 47 Abbotbury Rd., Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2NS (tel. 0626 54294).

HMS Venerable Assn.: The seventh reunion dinner will be held at the Great Barr Hotel, Birmingham on March 13. Details from Bas Redfern, 64 Coppice Rd., Talke, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 1UA (tel. 0782 784876).

845 Naval Air Squadron Assn.: Any members, past or present, who wish to join the soon-to-be-formed association should contact Sub-Lieut. S. A. J. Cox, 845 NAS, RN air station Yeovilton, Somerset BA22 8HT.

625 Squadron Royal Marines: A reunion is planned to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the forming of the squadron in 1954. Anyone interested in attending contact Mark Cline, Avery's Bridge, Moreton Paddox, Warks. CV35 9BU (tel. 0926 651666).

HMS Collingwood, 1943: To commemorate the bombing of the establishment 50 years ago a service will be held in HMS Collingwood on June 18. Those who served at the time and who wish to attend should contact APRO, Mrs Loney, HMS Collingwood (tel. 0705 822351 ext. 312).

1840 (Helicat Squadron), HM ships Indefatigable, Speaker and Indomitable: A 50th anniversary reunion will be held at RN air station Yeovilton in March. All who served in the squadron in 1944 contact Barry Nation, The Clock Tower, Hatch Beauchamp, Taunton, Somerset TA3 6AA.

HMS Heron (1942-43): A reunion of all naval/air stores staff will be held in the Yeovilton area in March. Details from Ron Lewin, 7 South Croft, Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4PS (tel. 0272 622187).

HMS Diadem Assn. will hold its next reunion at the Ibis Hotel, Luton on May 15.

the 50th anniversary of the ship's commissioning. Details from Bernie Hudson, 12 The Crescent, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2PE (tel. 0395 279358).

Windsor School, Ham, Germany: A reunion for the children of serving members of the Armed Forces who attended the school is to be arranged. Details, enclosing a s.a.e., from Bob Jordan, Greenacre, Shepherds Lane, Compton Down, Winchester SO21 2AB.

HMS Warspite: A large contingent of families, crew and members of the HMS Warspite Association gathered at Marazion, Cornwall, on Sept. 25, to dedicate a memorial of Cornish stone as a tribute to the Warspite's final resting place in Prussia Cove.

P and O Boats 1960-90: A reunion will be held at HMS President, 72 St. Katherine's Way, Wapping, London E1 on February 6. Details from Barnes Wallace or Dave Prewer on 071 480 7219.

HMS Burgess (K347): To celebrate 50 years since the ship commissioned in the USA it is proposed to hold a reunion. Details from Dennis Benson, 313 Dividy Rd., Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent ST2 0BJ (tel. 0782 281872).

Castle Class Corvette (Frigate) Assn. held a successful reunion in Southsea in Oct. Next year's reunion will be in York in Sept. Details of the association, enclosing s.a.e., from S. G. Taylor, 10 Beech Rd., Wetherham, West Mids WV13 3DD (tel. 0902 633197).

BA Escort Group, Battle of the Atlantic: A reunion is proposed during BA93 (Liverpool, May 26-31). Those interested send a s.a.e. to Oliver Wright, 15 Boyne Hill Rd., Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 4HQ.

Royal Marines Assn., Zeebrugge Weekend: Members of the RM and their friends are invited to join the Southern Region's weekend at the Savoy Country Club, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight on April 23-25. Details from Frank Agass, 108 Sandy Lane, St. Ives, Ringwood, Hants BH34 2LG (tel. 0425 473880).

HMS Swiftsure Assn. Any ship's company interested in joining the association or attending the next reunion in September or October contact David George, Magnolia, Royce Way, West Wittering, Chichester (tel. 0243 514583).

HMS Magpie (1943-46): A reunion has been arranged at the Southport Police Club on May 27. Details from Tom Iddon, 28 Falkland Rd., Southport (tel. 0704 541567).

HMS Curacao: The 50th anniversary of the loss of the ship in collision with RMS Queen Mary was marked by the laying of a wreath by HMS Nulton on the exact site on September 28. A reunion was also held at the RNA Club, Nottingham on October 10.

Operation Primrose/Sickleforce: A reunion will be held at the Town Hall, Leicester on February 12. All branches who served at Aandalsnes and Molde with 148 Brigade are welcome. Details from Mr J. T. Briggs, 35 Hillpark Cres., Plymouth PL4 8JP (tel. 0752 668235). List to be closed December 31.

HMS Eskimo (Tribal) Assn. held their fourth reunion at St. Edmunds and Gladon Hotels, Gorleston-on-sea, on October 2-5. A memorial service was also held at Bellevue Park, Lowestoft. Anyone wishing to join the association contact Joe Ayton on 0268 785436.

Eighth Destroyer Assn. dedicated their standard in St. Martin's Church, Scarborough on September 13. Over 300 shipmates and friends attended the service.

HMS Leeds Castle: A reunion of former members of the ship's company has taken place and proved such a success that another one is being planned. For details or photographs of the last reunion contact M. Winn, 25 Nuffield Dr., Banbury, Oxon OX16 7BU.

HMS Raleigh (1973): Class 55, Mess 156, Collingwood Division will be holding a 20th

anniversary reunion on Jan. 15-17. Details from Pete (Brum) Dainty, 8 Bakerhouse Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5HX (tel. 021 358 5787).

TS Seahawk (New Ferry Sea Cadet Unit) will hold a reunion at Cornwell Close, New Ferry on January 15 to celebrate the 50th anniversary. Ex-members, staff, cadets or committee members who wish to join in the celebrations contact Charlie Britton on 051 334 8581 or Dave Wynne on 051 645 5460.

HMS Barle: The second reunion and dinner will be held at Edgbaston Palace Hotel, Birmingham on April 24. Details from Sam Peasall, 29 Green Gables Dr., Hollywood, Nr Birmingham (tel. 021 430 6924) or Ted Hellings, 2 Austin Close, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants NN9 7AX (tel. 0933 53972).

HMS Cavalier (1961-63): Thanks to all who attended the second reunion and dinner in South Shields in October. All ex-Cavaliers from all commissions are invited to contact Sid Anning, 14 Kipling Gdns, Plymouth PL5 3DD (tel. 0752 768201) with view to celebrating the ship's 50th birthday in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Assn. of Wrens: A reunion will be held at the Wembley Conference Centre on October 9 1993. Priority for tickets will initially be given to members, but details and membership forms may be obtained from The Secretary, Association of Wrens, 11A Chesam St., London SW1X 8NL (tel. 071 235 1528).

HMS Petunia (1941-45): The fifth reunion dinner will take place at the Angel Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa on May 7. Details from G. C. (Tanky) Shaw, 821 Dorchester Rd. Upwey, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5LB (tel. 0305 81 3372).

Chief Naval Engineer Officers' annual dinner and reunion will be held at RNEC Manadon, Plymouth on February 26. Application forms can be obtained by sending a s.a.e. to CNEO's Dinner Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Rm 62, G Block, Foxhill, Bath BA1 5AB (tel. 0225 883799). It is important to note the Secretary will also be maintaining a mailing list for retired officers wishing to receive details of subsequent dinners.

North Russia Club, southern reunion, will be held in HMS Nelson on May 22. Details, enclosing s.a.e., from Mervyn Williams, 87 Olive Rd., Oxford, Southampton SO1 6FT (tel. 0703 775 875).

HMS Chichester (1974-77): Anyone wishing to attend a first reunion to be held in Portsmouth next summer contact Paul Robinson, Top Flat, 17 Canada Grove, Bognor Regis, N. Sussex PO21 2DW.

LSTs (Second World War): A proposed visit to the USA (various ports) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the LSTs commissioning will take place in September. Anyone interested contact Miss Val Williams, 11 The First, Holbrook, Gosport PO13 0ZN by January 31.

HMS Wildgoose: The first reunion of the association will take place at Skipton on September 23-26 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ship's commissioning. Anyone wishing to attend or join the association contact K. J. Hayes, 10 Stratford Way, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 5XN.

HMS Rotherham, Captain (D) 11th Destroyer Flotilla, East Indies Fleet (1943-45): For details of the 1993 reunion contact Bob Sandford, 61 Tamarisk, Pandora Meadows, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

Royal Naval Elementary Flying Training Sqn (Topcliffe Trawl): To mark the disbanding of RNEFTS a cocktail party will be held at Topcliffe on June 17. All ex-QFIs will be invited and a list of names will be passed to Lieuts. Dick Posnett, Nick Lee and Fit-Lieut. Mark Oliver at RNEFTS, RAF Linton on Ouse, York YO6 2AJ (tel. 0748 875309 or Catterick Mill ext 5309).

899 NAS will be holding their 50th anniversary reunion at RN air station Yeovilton on December 15. Those wishing to attend contact Lieut. P. R. Simmonds-Short, 899 NAS, RN air station Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HT enclosing a brief 899

Calling Old Shipmates

Sqn. service history.

HM ships Watchman, Maidstone, Boloto and Genista (1939-51): Albert Potgieter, 10A Xavier St., Housing Dept., Crown Gardens, 2091, South Africa would like to hear from former shipmates.

HMS Steneston (1943-44): Arthur Renshaw, 1 Western Ave., Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 7AH (tel. 0270 624006) would like to hear from former shipmates.

HMS Amphion (1962-69): John Smith, 17 Post Office Close, Lingwood, Norwich NR13 4EW would like to hear from former shipmate John Boardman.

HMS Phoenix (1958-60): Ex-CCY C. R. (Tug) Wilson, 168 Avon Rd., Chelmsford, Essex (tel. 0245 352494) would like to trace the present whereabouts of ex-CPO Radio Electrician Stan Collins and his wife Vera. Last contact was made in 1961 when they were residing on the Rowner Estate, Gosport, after which they were believed to have been drafted to COMCEN Mauritius late 1961-early 1962.

HMS Ganges, Drake 40 Mess, Class 17 (1955-56): Doug Ballands, 87 Nursery Rd., Bishops Cleeve, Herts CM23 7HJ (tel. 0279 659862) would like to hear from Dougie Chapman who he thinks appeared in the HMS Ganges Association, Notts Area, photograph on page 22 of the October edition of Navy News.

HMLCT 317, Juno Red Beach, D-Day 1944: Former Sub-Lieut. R. H. Browne, RNVR, now living in Australia, would like to hear from old shipmates — he became separated from the rest of the ship's company when the vessel was abandoned. Contact him c/o 60 Hungerford Rd. London N7 9LP (tel. 071-807 3916).

SS Mecklenburg and SS Jan-Van-Goyen: Ron Gardner, 96 Dutch Lane, Melksham, Wilts SN12 8DX would like to hear from any ex-RN/DEMS gunners, signals, communications personnel and sick berth staff who served on board either of these ships which sailed under the Dutch flag throughout the Second World War.

HMS Belfast (1961-62): Ex-AR Stuart Hubbard, The Flat, The Veterinary Surgery, Gardiner Rd., Guildford, Surrey GU1 4PG (tel. 081-928 5151 ext. 85358 or 0483 66175) would like to hear from former shipmates in B Turret, Gunner Department (Port Side), Number 13 Mess.

HMS Moon (1945-47): Ex-Stoker Cliff (Pancho) Bygate, 52 Toppam Way, Sheffield S8 7NY would like to contact former shipmates who are not already members of the Algerines Association.

HM ships Newcastle (1952-54), Terror (1956-58) and Diamond (1960-63): Leo Carini, The Bungalow, Frampton Marsh, Lincs PE20 1AY (tel. 0205 722971) would like to hear from shipmates from any FX Division and FX Soccer Team in HMS Newcastle, Gordon Tripp and any members of Destroyer Refit Party and Seamen's soccer team in HMS Terror and an AX Division and A Turret's crew in HMS Diamond.

HM ships Royal Arthur (1941), Duke of York, Lightening, Nelson (Force H), Hannibal (Algiers), Dido, Indefatigable, Norfolk and Belfast: George (Yorkie) Gill, 10 Redhill Rd., Harrogate, N. Yorks HG1 3JQ (tel. 0423 521250) would like to hear from former shipmates.

HM ships Victorious (Singapore 1964-65) and Forth (Singapore 1968-70): Ex-CPOCK J. Markham, c/o 69 Peterhouse Cres., Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4HX (tel. Woodbridge 387932) would like to hear from ex-CK(S) J. Levy and CK(S) T. McMullum.

Turkey Killing and Plucking Party, Portsmouth 1944: Steve Stokoe, Unit 6, O'Connor Court, 158 Holland St., Fremantle, 6160, Western Australia would like to hear from old shipmates.

HMS St Vincent (1932-34): Ex-CPO Coxn. Philip Redman, 14-2787 Wentworth Rd., Courtenay, BC Canada V9N 6B7 would like to hear from old shipmates, in particular members of the winning Inter-Divisional Field Gun Competition.

HMS Exeter, Christmas 1989: Mike Burns, 4 Crispin Close, Locks Heath, Hants SO3 6TD (tel. 0489 589805) would like to hear from any shipmates who were on duty that Christmas.

HMS Warspite, Kalfrana Bay, Malta: Ex-Gunner (Royal Artillery) Gordon Bell, 21 Pinewood Rd., Southwick, Sunderland SR5 5AE (tel. 091 5481976) would like to hear from anyone who was on board the Warspite when he and two friends visited the ship in Malta. Their attempt to climb on board provided the ship's company with some light entertainment.

191 Flotilla, Feb., 1943: R. Bennett, 125 Briscoe Rd., Rainham, Essex RM13 9QQ would like to hear from old shipmates, in particular Freddie Chase, from London, Bryan Angel, from Hastings, and Jack Dilks, from Derbyshire.

HMS Narvik, LST 5th Flotilla, and HMS Ben Lomond (1948-49): F. J. Woods, 22 Constable Dr., Gleadless Valley, Sheffield S14 1AU (tel. 0742 393986) would like to hear from former shipmates.

HMS Cossack, 1950s: K. Batty, 8 Leichhardt Dr., Redbank Plains, Queensland 4301, Australia would like to hear from any communications personnel who served with her father John Batty and from anyone who may have a cap tally or the ship's badge.

HMS Mistral (1943): W. J. Cross, 50 Woodhall Way, Fareham PO15 6BW would like information about the French Simoun Class destroyer, built in Le Havre 1926-27, and commissioned at Tilbury in 1943.

D-Day June 6 1944: To commemorate the 50th anniversary a book has been commissioned and Joan and Frank Shaw, Manor Cottage, Wykin, Hincley, Leics LE10 3EF, would like to hear from anyone who has any special memories of the day. Royalties from the book will go to an appropriate charity.

King George VI's Funeral/Queen's Coronation: Alastair Bruce, Granite Productions, 5 Stucley House, 1-8 Stucley Place, London NW1 8NS (tel. 071 916 2250) would like to hear from any naval personnel associated with the two ceremonies, in particular members of the King's bearer party. Yorkshire Television intend to make a film to mark the 40th anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

RN wall plaques: General Natale Dodoli, Piazza Risorgimento 12, Modena, Italy would like wall plaques for his collection. He is willing to buy them or exchange them for Italian army plaques or crests.

J. L. Holmes: Mrs S. H. Cook, 55 Hamilton Gardens, Hockley, Essex SS5 5BX, has a medallion, one and a half inch in diameter, depicting a footballer on one side with the

HM submarine P311: Mrs. B. Knapp, Kingfishers, Down Rd., Tavistock, Devon PL19 9AQ would like to hear from anyone who served with Chief Stoker A. J. Squire who was lost in the submarine (he also served in Regus, Narwhal, Rorqual and Olympus).

HMS Cadiz (1950-52): G. (Darcy) Parry, 35 Gawsorth Ave., Crewe CM2 8PH (tel. 0270 662851) would like to hear from old shipmates with view to a reunion.

MTB 24 (1941-45): Bert Coots, 2 Red Cross Cottages, Ayres St., London SE1 (tel. 071-407 6137) and Dick Kemp, The Anglers Rest, West End, March, Cambs PE15 8DJ (tel. 0354 56185) would like to hear from old shipmates with view to a reunion.

LC(L) 127: David Satherley, 24B Avenue Rd., Leamington Spa, Warwick CV31 3PQ (tel. 0926 339885) would like to hear from old shipmates who served in 127 in the United States, Mediterranean and Normandy.

SS Empire Standard: Joe Pitcher, 12 Goad Ave., Walserslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 8DT (tel. 0634 682923) would like to hear from any former DEMS Gunners who were serving in the ship when she was torpedoed off Oran on March 19, 1943 and which was finally bombed and sunk in Algiers Harbour on March 26, 1943.

HMS Daedalus (1945-46) and HMS Heron (1950-53): Mrs. Wyn Ralph, 14 Marleyfield Way, Churchdown, Glos GL3 1JW would like to hear from former shipmates who knew her from the clothing store, in particular Joyce Knowles.

RNC Eaton Hall (May, 1943): The 50th anniversary reunion is being arranged and David Lund (tel. 02406 3421) would like to hear from J. R. Eagles, J. E. M. Greenaway, D. S. Hutchinson, J. E. Pretymann, J. B. Pride and P. F. Trevorhar.

Plan R4 (1939-40): E. J. Roberts, 5 Covindale House, Pedmool Close, Southsea PO4 9RY would like to hear from anyone who was in the naval force at the shore base at Harstad Norway, until the evacuation.

HMS Penn (1942-47): Frank Dellimore, British Legion Residential Home, Crossfield House, Dark Lane, Rhayader, Powys would like to hear from former shipmates.

HMS Iron Duke (1938-39): Bob Kelly, 89 Albert St., Burnley (0282 22205) would like to hear from former shipmates.

RN Engine Room Assn. is open to any member of the mechanical or electrical branch, whatever rank or rate, past or present. For information contact: R. J. Styants (SNR), RNERA, The Nautical Club, Birmingham B15 1ET.

HMS London (1940-45): Dick Connell, 39 Laing Grove, High Howdon NE28 0DE would like to hear from former shipmates.

19th Flotilla MLs (Holtheford 1941): Ex-ML Sandy Powell, 19 Pentrefelin, Llanoch, Holyhead LL65 1LY (tel. 0407 764756) would like to hear from Harry Lancaster and Harry Broadhead.

HMS Venerable Assn. wish to contact George Bartlett (Lydney), Sid Garside (Hyde), John Stocks (moved to south of England), Bob Farrow (Stockport) and Alf Pound. Anyone with any information contact: Bas Redfern, 64 Coppice Rd., Talke, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 1UA (tel. 0782 784876).

HMS Eagle (1940): During Orion 92, RO G. Robinson, 6G Sbd. Outer Mess, HMS Invincible, visited Kranji War Cemetery and came across the grave of Sig. E. Robinson, of HMS Eagle, who died March 16, 1940. RO Robinson would like to get in touch with former shipmates or his family (RO Robinson managed to get a photo of the grave).

HMS Plucky (1947-45): AB Gerry (Ginger) Smart, now living in Australia, would like to hear from old shipmates, especially AB Don (Johnno) Johnson and Lofti Rowlett. Contact him c/o E. A. Aymer, 44 Sandbanks Rd., Poole, Dorset BH14 8BY (tel. 0202 743237).

11th LBV Flotilla: F. W. Smith, 19 Guardian Court, Moat Lane, Yardley, Birmingham B26 1TW would like to hear from ex-RPO Harry Mountjoy, from Bideford, Devon, and Sub-Lieut. Carson, last heard of in the Elgin area of Scotland.

HMS Flycatcher (Monab) 1944: Bill Gibson, 27 Westgate Park Rd., Morecambe, Lancs LA4 4RN (tel. 0524 423177) would like to hear from any cooks or officer stewards at Ludham and Middle Wallop from August, 1944-July, 1945.

HM ships Pembroke, Tamar, Terror, Norfolk and Drake: Leslie Hellier, 38 Gresham Ave., Brinsworth, Rotherham, Sth. Yorks S60 5HA (tel. 0709 382565) would like to hear from former shipmates with whom he served from 1944-73 (he retired as WO Fleet Chief Writer). In particular, he would like to hear from Keith Stokes (HMS Pembroke) and Tony Chambers (HMS Tamar).

RN Hospital Haslar 1941: Harry Buckingham, 11 Shaw Ave., Biddick Hall Estate, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, would like to hear from Stoker 1st Class Ian Durkin who he last saw at Haslar Hospital on firefighting duties.

HM ships Londonderry (1956-67), Devonshire (1969-72) and Eagle (1977-79): Former POPT Michael Ellis, 11 Stansfield Rd., Hounslow West, Middlesex TW4 7QD (tel. 081-319 4066 — work, 081-897 9830 — home) would like to hear from former shipmates.

HMS Sidmouth: On behalf of the curator of a local museum Lieut.-Cdr. J. Trevor (SCC) is compiling a record of the wartime history of the Bangor Class Fleet mine-sweeper. Any information or photographs should be sent to him at Tamarix, Griggs Lane, Fortescue, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 9QF (tel. 0395 512241).

HMS Punjabi: J. Rogers, 22 Southborough Court, Park Rd., Southborough, Tunbridge Wells TN4 0NT would like copies of any newspaper articles about the sinking of the ship after colliding with HMS King George V in 1942.

HMS St. Vincent (1937-38): J. H. Pullen, 156 The Crossway, Portchester, Hants PO16 8NQ would like to hear from anyone who can provide the names of the members of Maintop 161 Class.

HMS Raleigh, Class 60, 1942: John Makin, 25 Erskine Close, Egguckland, Plymouth PL6 5QN (tel. 0752 789610, home: 0752 812 183, work) would like a copy of the class photo which shows Ginger Makin with a black eye, and an aerial shot of HMS Raleigh prior to 1965.

BOOK BARGAINS

Just a few of the (new) bargain Royal Naval books in our Pre-Christmas Sale

COMBAT FLEETS 1990/91	Was £72.00	Now £45.00
THE WAR AT SEA: ROYAL & DOMINION NAVY ACTION NS WW2	Was £21.95	Now £10.95
MODERN COMBAT SHIPS: TYPE 22 (Marriott)	Was £10.95	Now £6.95
BRITISH BATTLESHIPS 1860-1950 (Oscar Parkes)	Was £75.00	Now £39.00
TYPE VII U BOATS (Stern)	Was £20.45	Now £9.95
SUBMARINE TORBAY (Chapman)	Was £12.95	Now £6.50
BATTLESHIPS & BATTLECRUISERS OF THE RN SINCE 1861	Was £12.95	Now £7.95
SWORDFISH AT WAR (Harrison)	Was £15.95	Now £8.95
BATTLESHIPS AT WAR (Coward)	Was £16.95	Now £8.95
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THE ROYAL NAVY & THE FALKLANDS WAR (Brown) H/B	Was £10.95	Now £5.95
EXPERIENCES OF WAR: THE BRITISH SAILOR (Poolman)	Was £14.95	Now £7.50
BLESS OUR SHIP — MOUNT-BATTEN & THE KELLY (Hough)	Was £18.45	Now £8.95
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Frome hosts surprise party

SHIPMATE Len Roberts, of Frome, may have experienced some surprises while serving in submarines during the Second World War but nothing prepared him for the surprise sprung on him after a recent branch meeting.

BRANCH NEWS

Before he realised what was happening his fellow shipmates had cleared the decks and were toasting him with Pusser's Rum to mark his 80th birthday.

A birthday cake, with a submarine on top, riding the waves, was presented by Shipmate Fay Lawton, the branch welfare officer. The carved submarine on the cake was the gift of her husband Michael, the branch treasurer.

"Many thanks and much praise" to Kettering from a recent visitor, Shipmate Pulford, who says the hospitality and comradeship extended both to himself and former members of the ship's company of HMS Pychley on their first reunion can never be equalled.

The visitors enjoyed a dance and gala on Saturday night and attended a church service on Sunday.

Summing up the weekend Shipmate Pulford says: "I ate well, laughed a lot, met old friends and collected quite a lot of interesting information. More cannot be asked by anyone."

Twenty-five members of Sidcup, including chairman Jack Todd and social secretary Sid Waller and their wives, enjoyed a week in Koblenz which included boat trips on the Rhine and visits to the cathedral of Koblenz and to its ancient fortress.

Highlight of the week was an evening as guests of the German Navy Association Club where they were warmly welcomed.

During the visit Shipmates Ted Bacon and Denis Stoneham, who witnessed the destruction of the German battleship Scharnhorst in 1943, were introduced to Wolfgang Kube, who served in her. The former enemies shook hands and exchanged memorabilia.

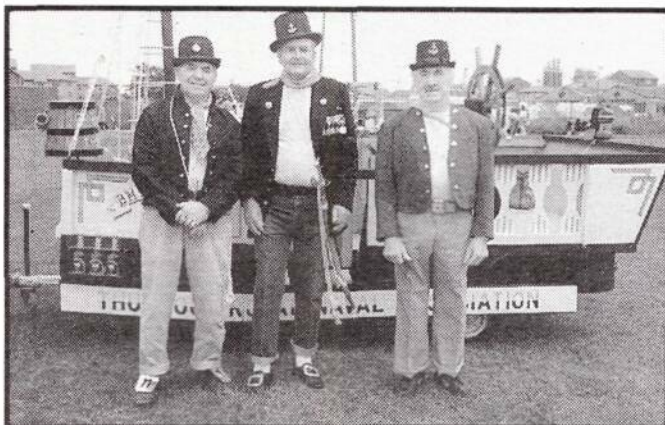
Before returning home members of Sidcup returned the hospitality and entertained their German "oppos" in their hotel.

Members of Leeds No 1 Headingly branch were warmly welcomed by Portsmouth, Gosport and Basingstoke branches and by the WOs' and CPOs' mess of HMS Heron and HMS Nelson. They thank their hosts for the welcome extended and the great run ashore. Members meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Headingly RBL Club, St Michael's Road, Leeds at 2000 hrs and extend a warm welcome to visiting shipmates and new recruits.

Shipmates Bartlett and Gay of Redruth and Camborne were privileged to be invited on board HM Yacht Britannia, by POSTD Stephen Green when the yacht was on a courtesy visit to Falmouth.

The visitors and their wives were looked after by PO Dave Rayner, who took care of all their needs. A thank you from the guests for a memorable experience and for the hospitality received.

Members of Thurrock, having formed a song and comedy sketch group, played to packed



A PROUD moment for the ship's company of HMS Pusser, a "carnival class" Man of War, built and fitted out by members of Thurrock branch. Shipmates Charlie Mercer, Les Milburn and Reg Martin added the finishing touch by turning up on carnival day in the appropriate rig. HMS Pusser, escorted by Sea Cadets from TS Boxer, won overall float in the Chadwell and Tilbury Carnival as well as coming top of its own class.

houses at the Thameside Theatre. The show, in aid of Age Concern, was so successful that the group plan many more public appearances to raise funds for charity.

The most important job of the year for shipmates of Yeovil, the re-dedication of their branch standard, took place at RN air station Yeovilton and was followed by lunch in the WOs' and CPOs' Mess. Members also attended the re-opening of the "Rum Hole" in the Four Acres Hotel, a very happy occasion. There was also a good turn out for the branch Trafalgar dinner at which the president, Shipmate Doug Farge, was guest speaker.

Maidstone Harvest Festival service, conducted by the branch padre, the Rev. Paul Francis, was attended by the Mayor and by shipmates from Pembroke House. A raffle raised £200 for the Kent Air Ambulance and all produce was

donated to Pembroke House.

To compensate for the late cancellation of HMS York's visit to Hull, members of the ship's company visited the city and were entertained by York. They received a special gift, a model of HMS York in a Pusser's rum bottle, to be conveyed to the former Commodore of the branch, Capt. Roy Clare. It is hoped the new commanding officer of HMS York, Capt. Paul Stone, will continue the tradition of assuming the post of Commodore of York branch.

Since October 1, Buxton and High Peak (No 10 Area) have moved headquarters to Buxton Football Club, Social Club, Silverlands, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6QH.

Trafalgar round up

DESPITE the recession, the anniversary of Trafalgar was celebrated in style up and down the country.

A dinner-dance at the Churchill House Hotel, was the choice of Swindon branch and was enjoyed by 150 shipmates and friends. Well-turned out Sea Cadets, from Wootton Bassett, expertly piped the principal guest on board, none other than the President of the Sea Cadet Association, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach. During the evening he was presented with a plaque on behalf of the Swindon branch, to be awarded annually to the Cadet of the Year.

Members of York chose a novel way of celebrating. They abandoned their usual haunts and took a three-hour cruise on the River Ouse in the White Rose Line ship, River King, which was dressed overall for the occasion. The 40 shipmates and guests, including guest of honour Mr Keith Wood, the former Lord Mayor, had a wonderful time.

Members of Brighton and Hove had a double celebration, firstly in the Battle of Trafalgar pub at Portslade and then in the home of branch president, Shipmate John Blackman. Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton, alias landlord Phil and wife, Pat, who welcomed them to the pub, ensured their guests had a great time. There was a "tot" of Pusser's Rum on arrival and some delicious "eats" to follow.

A Trafalgar buffet lunch in the home of Shipmate Blackman and his wife is an event shipmates look forward to every year and, as always, the visitors had a marvellous time.

For the past 23 years the Llandudno branch has celebrated Trafalgar with a parade and service at the local cenotaph, this year being no exception. As it also marked the 50th anniversary of the local Sea Cadet Corps, cadets had pride of place in the parade. 27 standards were displayed at the march past.

The Hillmorton branch

marked the anniversary with a dinner attended by shipmates of Tamworth, Rugby and Reading branches and by naval personnel from Portsmouth and Faslane. The guest of honour was Shipmate Ron Tasker, chairman of the national council. During the evening a cheque was presented to the Rugby Sea Cadet Unit, TS Tireless, and another cheque to a local charity, the Duffy Place Senior Citizens Community.

The guest of honour at Pad-dock Wood Trafalgar dinner was Surg. Capt. Robert Henderson (retd.), whose amusing after-dinner speech went down a treat with shipmates.

Some 80 shipmates and guests enjoyed Folkestone celebration dinner at which Admiral J. Whetstone, the branch president, and Lady Whetstone were guests of honour. The anniversary of Trafalgar was also marked in a significant manner by having the new branch standard blessed in the Mariners' Church of St Peter.

The Trafalgar night dinner-dance organised by Shipmate Len Husband for members of Torridgeside and Braunton, held at Bideford, was a singularly successful evening enjoyed by 84 shipmates and their wives. A rocking horse, beautifully made by Shipmate George Humphries was raffled and won by Shipmate Ken Rendell.

Percy bows out



LOOKING a lot younger than his 80 years, Shipmate Percy Lane, standard bearer for Hereford, is seen here displaying the inscribed silver salver he was presented with to mark his retirement after 20 years' loyal service.

Percy joined the Navy at the age of 15 as a Boy Seaman and saw service in all types of ships throughout the Second World War.

Burma Star

As well as being a founder member of the branch he is also a member of the Burma Star Association and the Royal British Legion.

Since taking over as standard bearer in 1972 he has travelled many thousands of miles all over the country but now, due to advancing years and the ill health of his wife, he has handed over duties to Shipmate Jim Davies.

Pictured with Percy at the presentation are, left, branch chairman Jim Whent and, rear, president Les Morgan.

Picture: Star Journal Studios.

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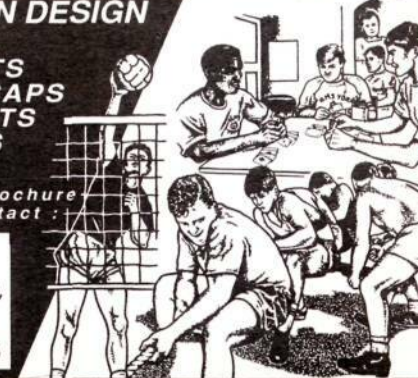
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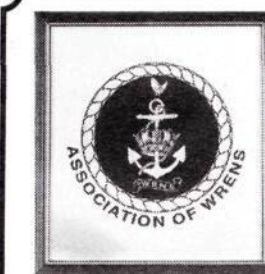
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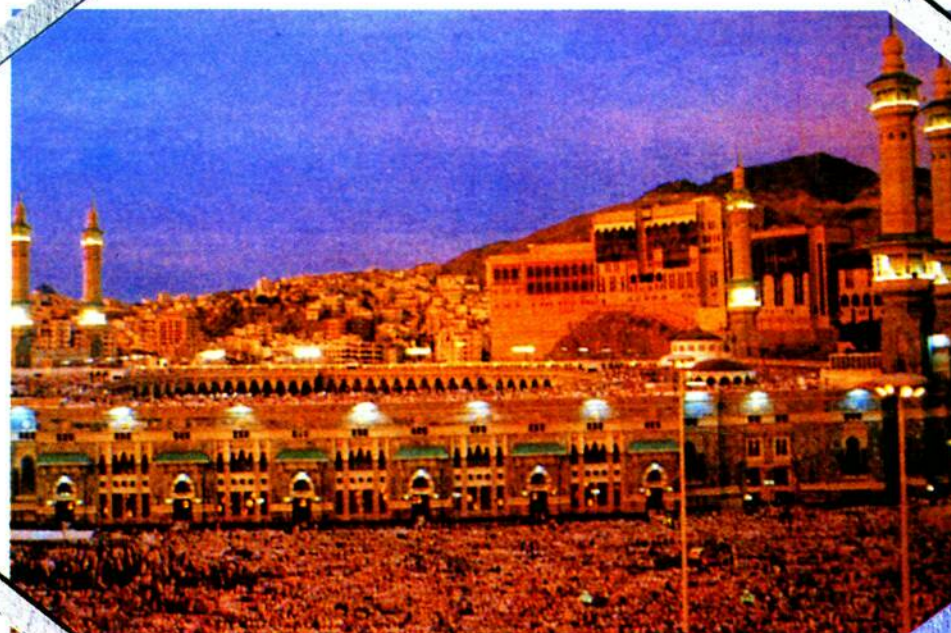
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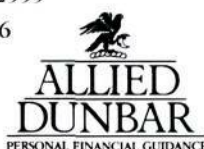
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Annual subvention to RN and RM Sports Control Board — £43,000 from FAF.



ANGLERS enjoy a peaceful afternoon at HMS Sultan's moat, which has been dredged as a result of funding, approved at earlier meetings, by the Sailors' and Fleet Amenities Funds, together with a contribution from the RN and RM Sports Lottery.

Picture: Lieut.-Cdr. Nigel Huxtable.

Grants pay for new-look clubs

TRAFALGAR Day and a lunchtime tot of Pusser's Rum provided an appropriate touch when the Sailors' Fund — which resulted from the demise of the tot more than two decades ago — met in Portsmouth for the first time.

The fund's Grants Committee disbursed nearly £300,000 towards a wide range of projects and in regular grants, and a week later the Fleet Amenities Fund added nearly £180,000. Together with more than £30,000 contributed by the RN and RM Sports Lottery, this represented over half a million pounds to add to Service quality of life.

As ever, applications for help towards refurbishment of establishment clubs featured in the grant lists, and two of the successful bids in this sphere were from HMS Collingwood, which received a total of £37,500 towards refurbishment of the Collingwood Club, and from HMS Dolphin, where a similar amount goes to help the refurbishment of the Atlantis Club ballroom. Successful too was a range of sporting-recreational applications.

As briefly reported last month, the project receiving

the biggest financial boost was Hillcrest RN Community Centre at Chaddlewood, Plympton, which receives a total of £70,000 towards ground floor extension refurbishments. Committee members were impressed by the service provided by this centre and the considerable efforts made locally to ensure its success.

In all, more than 40 project applications appeared on the agenda, entailing close examination of the bids and plenty of judicious — and heart-searching — pruning.

Among the applications which failed were those from HMS Daedalus for help towards a jet ski; HMS Sultan for assistance towards framed pictures for Junior Rates' accommodation blocks; HMS Neptune for a forecourt car washer; CTCRM for a conservatory extension for the Sergeants' Mess; and two from the China Fleet Country Club (for judo mats and extension to the children's play area).

One of the major applications which received support was from the RN and the RM Sport Parachute Association for purchase of land at Dunkeswell airfield in Devon, if this proves necessary to ensure the future of the club.

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THE opening of HMS Nelson's refurbished Neptune 1 dining hall was celebrated in Caribbean style by "staff and customers". An appropriate menu was served as a steel band beat out calypso music after the Commodore HMS Nelson (Commodore Roger Lowndes) performed the opening ceremony.

The previously cheerless dining hall has been transformed into a smart, self-service, restaurant-style facility, with screens and small friendly dining areas, as a result of funding by the Sailors' and Fleet Amenities Funds, together with HMS Nelson's Leisure and Amenities Fund.

It has been warmly received by Nelson personnel, one of whom was heard to comment, "It almost makes it worth paying food and accommodation!"





Sun sets on Orient 92

"THE MOST successful Out of Area deployment for many years" — that was how Commander in Chief Fleet Admiral Sir Jock Slater hailed the return of Orient 92 last month.

The Princess Royal, Chief Commandant WRNS, flew out to HMS Invincible as the carrier, flying the flag of the Commander UK Task Group Rear Admiral John Brigstocke, approached Devonport with HMS Norfolk, HMS Boxer, HMS Newcastle and the RFAs Fort Austin and Olwen (centre). Invincible and Newcastle moved on to Portsmouth the following day.

In their six months away, they had visited 30 ports in 24 countries, steamed 35,000 miles and taken part in five major exercises, not to mention innumerable passage exercises with the ships of 17 nations.

"They have met all their objectives and I have been deeply impressed by the impact the Task Group has made in the Far East, the Gulf and the Mediterranean in the operational, political and diplomatic fields," Admiral Slater concluded — paying particular tribute to the defence sales effort, which helped promote the products of 26 UK companies.

Orient 92 had seen the largest ever RN participation in Exercise Starfish, the annual demonstration of the Five Power Defence Agreement reported in Navy News last month; the first visit by a RN carrier to the Gulf for over 15 years; and the first prolonged deployment by a Type 23 frigate — HMS Norfolk, a ship originally designed to operate for no more than 30 days without support.

The Task Group's appearance in the Gulf, coinciding with the Armilla Patrol handover of HMS Chatham and HMS Edinburgh to HMS London and HMS Nottingham, saw the strongest RN presence in these waters for some time.

While on passage through the Red Sea, HMS Invincible ran across a Russian Kilo class submarine being delivered to Iran (bottom left) — the first of two of the new diesel-electric boats that could, Admiral Brigstocke predicted, provide a submarine threat to oil supplies and send tanker insurance rocketing.

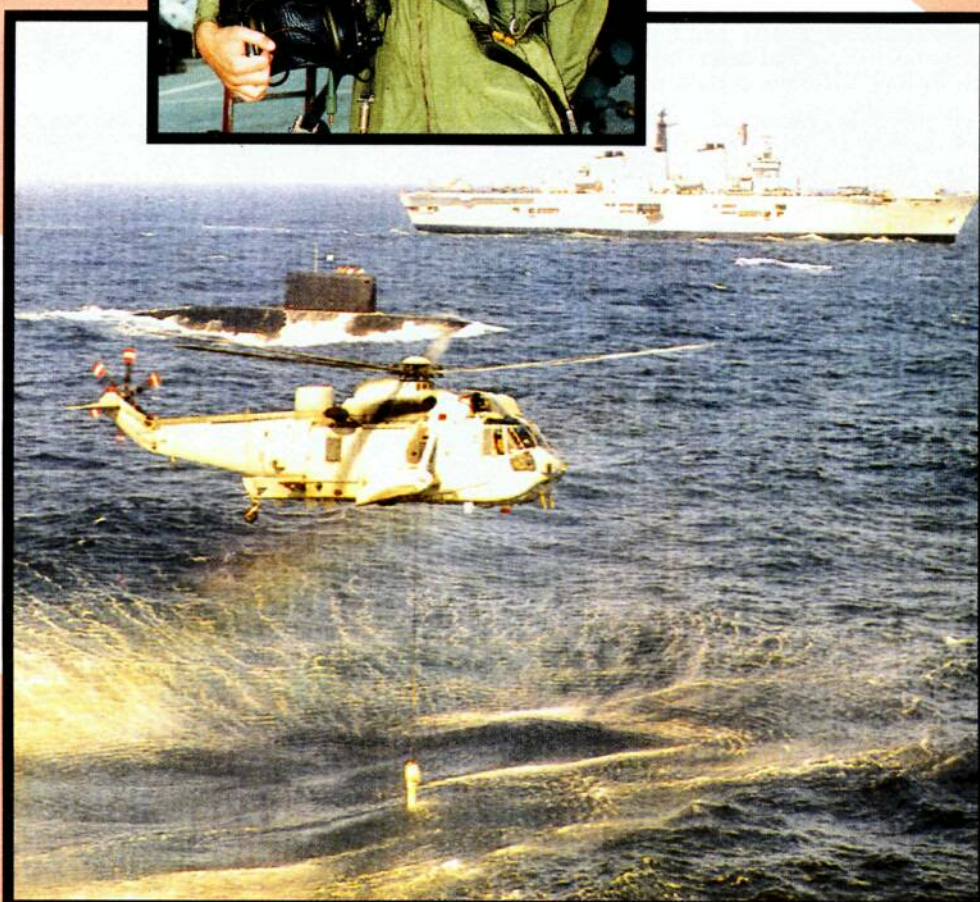
The Task Group Commander was keeping both feet firmly on the deck, however — despite a suggestion (see picture centre, left) that he might begin a new career as a front line fighter pilot.

800 Naval Air Squadron had christened a replacement Sea Harrier in his name after he piled on the pressure to have it flown out at the beginning of the deployment.

While failing to graduate to VSTOL, he did achieve one personal Orient 92 ambition, though — an unaided (but carefully supervised) Sea King deck landing.

Meanwhile LSTD Mike Barker (top left) of HMS Boxer — the only unit to visit Australia — was being hailed as the "Maily King" of Orient 92. Between 11 May and the Type 22 frigate's arrival in Diego Garcia Mike had received 380 letters and cards from his wife Carol in Plymouth.

● Top right — Lieut. Arthur Mitchell ponders the eternal question with the Egyptian Gully Gully man on passage through the Suez Canal.



User-friendly aid for Nigel

NIGEL Fox, a 27-year-old serving leading aircrewman, was injured during the bombing incident involving HMS Ark Royal when he sustained serious injuries to his lower right arm and lost all his fingers except the little one on his right hand. He also suffered burns and had shrapnel removed from his stomach, abdomen, and both legs.

The treatment for the burns has all but finished but he faces almost two years of surgery and further treatment to his right arm and hand.

Nigel, his wife Christa and son, Benjamin (seven) live in Helston.

Christa had just started a small hairdressing business when the incident occurred and has had to give up the business to care for Nigel and her son who has cerebral palsy. The family income was hit and the RNBT helped with grants towards Community Charge and energy accounts.

Nigel, being right handed, could no longer communicate and it was recommended by the doctors treating him that a computer would overcome this problem and also help in a therapeutic way to speed up his recovery, so RNBT contacted Major Ian Sanderson, who administers the MOD Computer Discount Plan whereby service personnel can purchase computer equipment from certain manufacturers at a discount.

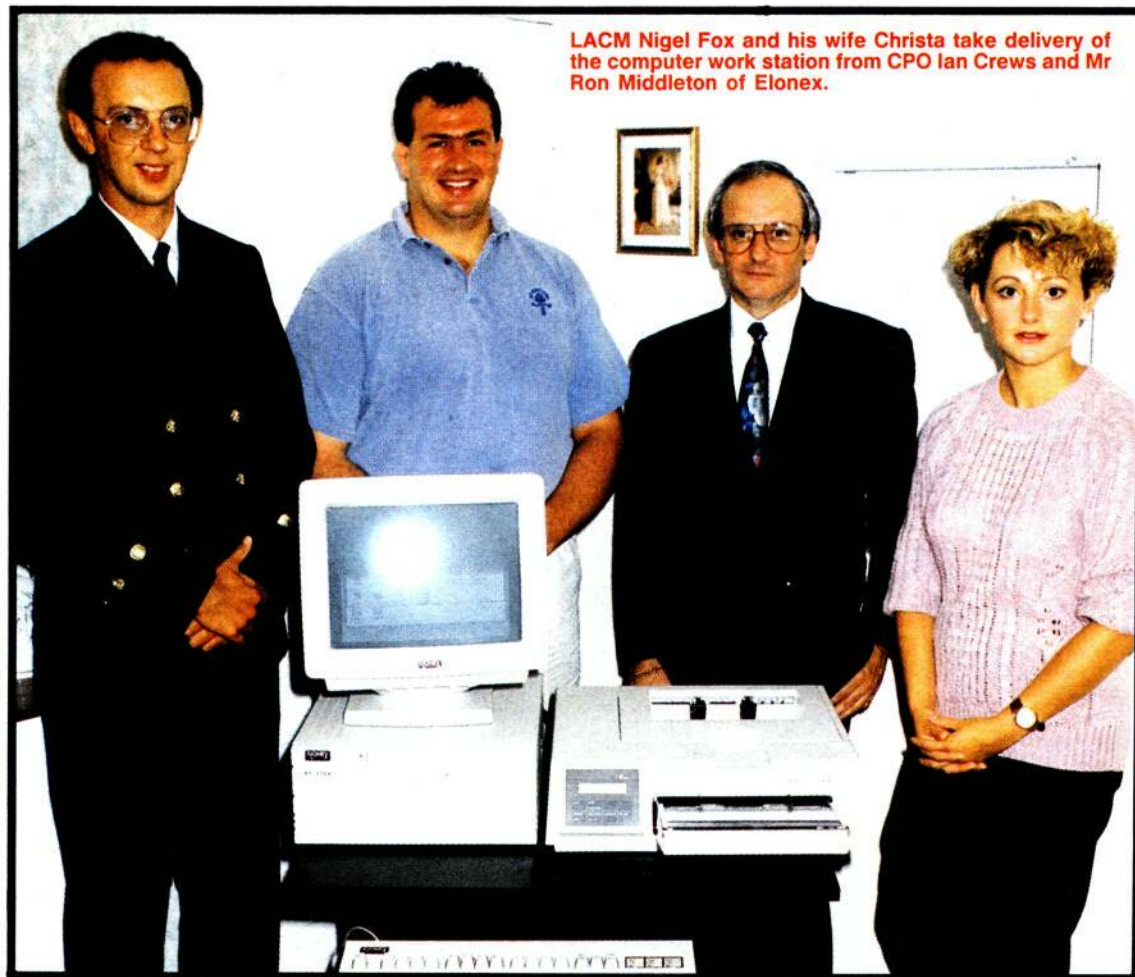
The Trust was told that eight companies were involved and one of them, Elonex, has offered a 386 PC free for a deserving Naval case, so Nigel was recommended for con-

deration and Elonex agreed to donate the computer, their sales manager, Ron Middleton, offering to deliver and install the machine. At his suggestion, OKI Printers were contacted and they responded by donating one of their model OL400 Laser Printers; in addition, Software Box of York donated a single handed software package.

With all this kit available, a computer work station was needed and the RNBT Grants Committee helped obtain one for Nigel.

Mr Middleton of Elonex delivered, installed and set up the computer equipment and Chief Petty Officer Ian Crews, the RNBT representative at Culdrose, obtained and set up the work station.

This was a magnificent response from the companies involved who, incidentally, donate £25 to the relevant Service charity every time a serving man or woman purchases a computer under the MOD Computer Discount Plan.



LACM Nigel Fox and his wife Christa take delivery of the computer work station from CPO Ian Crews and Mr Ron Middleton of Elonex.

Eezier reading for Fred

FRED Jones (81), a former stores chief petty officer, who served from September 1926 until October 1946, lives in a private residential home in Plymouth. A widower, who certainly does not look his age, remains a very cheerful old gentleman despite the fact that his sight is impaired and he is registered as "blind". He also suffers from diabetes and is awaiting an operation for a hernia, but, he still does voluntary work at the local hospital with

the WRVS.

Fred's eyesight has now deteriorated to the point where a simple magnifying glass is of no use to him when trying to read and he must now rely on others to read any personal mail for him. The answer to his problem was the acquisition of an Eezee Reader which would restore his independence in this area and also enable him to do some recreational reading. The Eezee Reader is a new reading aid for the visually handicapped and,

utilizing the latest development in TV camera miniaturisation, it takes the form of a lightweight hand-held scanner which is simply lifted and placed on the material to be read and the words then appear clearly and greatly magnified on a TV screen. The price was well beyond Fred's means, so SSAFA asked RNBT if they could help and the Grants Committee were happy to oblige with a grant of £280, the full cost.

TRUST'S 70TH AGM

OPENING the Trust's 70th annual general meeting, held at the Draper's Hall in London, Vice-Admiral Sir John Webster, the Trust's President, expressed his satisfaction that the RNBT was cost effective, had low overheads and possessed a very fair system of giving. He said that whilst the Trust finances were well managed and the capital base provided a little over half the income for grants, the RNBT still depended upon major benefactors, such as the Greenwich Hospital and King George's Fund for Sailors but that some of the other traditional sources were now fluctuating or indeed, drying up.

In his address to the meeting, the honorary treasurer, Mr John Edwards, confirmed in more detail these facts saying that in the year 1991-92, the trust's operating surplus went down to just £49,338, and that, while sums were received from the Medical Aid Fund and Queen Mary's Trust, Roehampton, NAAFI rebates and receipts from the Navy Weeks Trust had fallen by some £29,000.

He went on to say that cash resources were adequate to meet forecast spending commitments pro-

vided the annual income could be maintained at its current level.

The chairman of the Grants Committee told the audience that his committee had dealt with over 7,000 cases during the year in question and had been responsible for approving grants and payments totalling some £1,365,098. He praised the work of the voluntary caseworker and almoners, who help provide the reports that the committee saw, averaging some 150 applications each week, also saying that the initiative

taken by the Council of British Ex-Service Organisations and SSAFA to improve casework co-operation, was to be applauded.

The guest speaker, Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, the First Sea Lord, outlined the changes now facing the Royal Navy and concluded his address by thanking the Trust for the magnificent help it gave the naval community, stating that the RNBT provided a safety net that was quite literally, invaluable.

Happy Birthday Doris!

OVER the years, RNBT and Greenwich Hospital have come into contact with many thousands of delightful and deserving ex-naval lower deck ratings and their dependants, and from time to time there are certain people that stand out like shining stars.

Doris Beck who husband, Oliver, entered the Royal Navy as a boy on June 5, 1893, and was pensioned after twenty six years Service on July 4, 1919, was not eligible for a Service Widows pension so, in 1953, Greenwich Hospital decided to award her a Greenwich Hospital Pension, which the RNBT has been pleased to assist in administering.

Doris has now reached the grand old age of 100 and like most centenarians she can well remember celebration parties for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and can give graphic descriptions of tarred barrels being set alight and rolled along the streets to celebrate the relief of Ladysmith during the Boer War.

During the First World War, Doris ran a canteen in Southampton Docks supplying tea to Servicemen embarking and disembarking and vividly remembers the Americans arriving and still speaks of the gifts they gave her. She was also given tea and cakes by Admiral Baker in his quarters on board HMS Warspite during this period.

As one can imagine, Doris has barrel-loads of interesting stories and anecdotes in relation to her life experiences, but one of the most remarkable things is that at the age of one



hundred she is still a very active member of the Royal British Legion Retirement Club at Lee-on-the-Solent. Doris and her sister Daisy, aged 94, who lives next door, serve tea and sympathy to "youngsters" and regularly make all the cakes for the members at the weekly get together.

Doris thinks keeping busy

keeps her fit, but she has another little tip for all of us who wish to reach 100. She likes two teaspoonsful of brandy with her first cup of tea every morning!

All of us at RNBT, Greenwich Hospital and the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association wish Doris a very happy birthday with many more to come.

Photo, above — Kevin Pollard, RNBT committee member, presents Doris with a birthday bouquet.

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Water polo canoe style

PICTURED is a Royal Navy (in the lighter jackets) shot at goal during Joint Service Canoe Polo Championships, held at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

PO(Phot) Alan Amesbury's photo of the RN A v Army game shows how fraught the action can become in this sport, which has been rapidly gaining popularity over the past few years.

Up to eight players are allowed per team, but only five on the playing area at a time. Short canoes, known as Polo Bats, are used. The rules are designed to ensure safety rather than limit either tactics or competitive enthusiasm!

HM ships Neptune, Osprey and Collingwood and MOD London supplied the two Navy teams for this first Joint Service Championship. The final was played out between RN A and RAF A. One-all at full time and still 1-1 after extra time, the match went to a penalty shoot-out — result: **RAF 5, RN 3.**

● Anyone interested in the sport should contact Lieut.-Cdr. Peter Morris (MOD Main Building ext. 87798).

Binks plays a captain's game

NEWLY-ELECTED captain of Navy squash, POPT Ian Binks, selected a senior squad of 15 players in September and hopes are high that this season will see the Navy challenging the might of the RAF and Army at inter-service level after some years of struggle.

Early season fitness and preparation were thoroughly tested in the first fixture — a weekend quadrangular tournament in Manchester against very strong sides from the British Police, the Fire Service and the Army. Represented by CPO Stuart Walters (Vanguard), Cpl Brian Allen (45 Cdo), S(R) Graham Linfitt (Manchester), Lieut. Robin Young (Phoenix), CPO Martin Jukes (Broadsword) and Mne Mark Long (Cdo Log Regt), the Navy found themselves outgunned, although there were several excellent matches against this quality opposition. The Police were the eventual winners of the tournament, with the Fire Service second, the Army third and the Navy fourth.

For the second match of the season against the powerful RAC Club in London, Sub-Lieut. Nick Dymond (North Corner Group) replaced Jukes and Walters was unavailable. The new chairman of Navy squash Capt. Mike Sauvage, (FOSF) was a non-scoring sixth string. The RAC won a very closely contested match 4-1 with Young winning a very good match at second string. The chairman provided a little extra consolation

by winning at No.6.

The RNSRA Challenge Trophy, played at HMS Temeraire and open to all players who have not represented the Navy at senior inter-service level within the last five years, attracted 30 entries. The final was contested by WO Tim Webb (CINCFLEET) and Long, with the veteran Webb just running out the winner after a five set marathon. The Plate final was won by PO "Pedro" Willis, who beat CPO David Cummings 3-1 in another close final.

Highlight of the season so far was the very keenly fought Inter-Command Championships played at Temeraire at the end of October. After some closely contested matches between the two seeded leagues Portsmouth Command met the favourites, the Royal Marines, in the final. All rested on the last match at second string between Binks for Portsmouth and the determined Long. Playing his best squash of the season, Binks was a worthy winner to take the shield for Pompey. In the play-offs Fleet beat Scotland for third place and NAC beat Plymouth for fifth.

STROKES OF GENIUS

THE RN Masters Swim Team brought the season to a successful climax at the first Armed Services Masters Competition, and then the ASA National Masters Championships.

The former, at Arborfield Garrison, was completely dominated by the Senior Service whose swimmers came away with 62 gold, 43 silver and 21 bronze medals. Had there been an inter-service trophy, the RN would have romped away with it.

Top gold medalists were Phil Merryweather, with six in the 70-74 year group, and Geoff Bishop and Alex Wilson-Mills, who scored five each in the 55-59 and 40-44 year groups respectively.

Alex could not appear before mid after-

noon. Had he done so his haul of gold would probably have been greater. There can be little about that Alex, now 41, was the finest all-round post-war RN swimmer. At this event he was still leading home current Army team swimmers half his age!

Thanks go to Lieut.-Col. Chris Scotcher, who organised this first competition.

The following weekend the RN team were at Sheffield for the ASA event, the top UK competition, where they gained four gold, six silver and four bronze medals.

All four golds were won in the 70-74 group, with Laylee taking the 50,100 and 200m backstroke, the last two in GB record times for this group. Merryweather took the other gold in the 200m breaststroke. Lay-

lee now holds four short course and one long course GB records.

Other RN medals were won by: Mick Flaherty (35-39) bronze 200m and 400m freestyle; Geoff Bishop (55-59) bronze 50m and 100m breaststroke; and Merryweather (70-74) silver 50m backstroke and 100m breaststroke.

The over-240 years medley relay team (Laylee, Peter Stephens, Bishop and Merryweather) won silver. Subsequent to the championships, it was learnt that the winners of the event, the Spencer team, had broken the world record. Spencer, however, swam an American in their squad and the RN team in coming second gained the GB record for this event.

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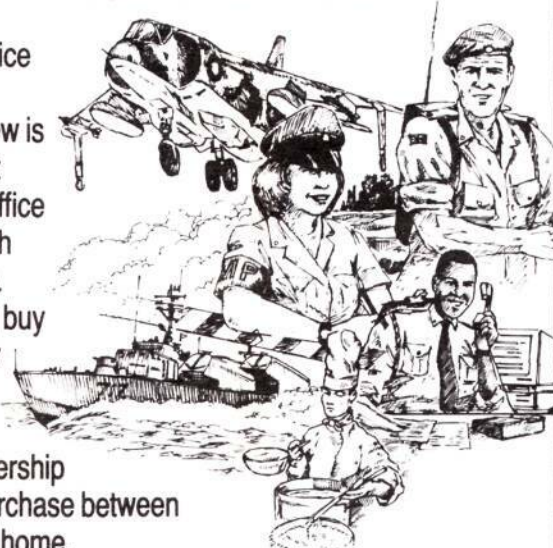
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FINALS ANGUISH FOR THE SCOTS

NAVAL Air Command resumed their hold on the Inter Command Cup when they defeated Scotland 2-0 in the final at Burnaby Road, writes *Lieut.-Cdr. Jim Danks*. Scotland had reached the final after convincing wins against Plymouth 3-1 and Portsmouth 5-0, while NAC went through on goal difference following a win against the Royal Marines 4-0 but defeat by the Fleet team 1-0.

NAC controlled the final from the start and denied the free scoring Scottish forwards the opportunity to improve on their impressive scoring in the league matches. In the 44th minute a fine cross from POPT Steve Riley (Daedalus) found LAEM Nigel Thwaites (Seahawk) who scored from an acute angle to put NAC ahead 1-0.

Within a minute of the restart, PO Will Flint (Heron) increased the lead with a fine individual goal. The game increased in tempo as the Scotland team sought the goals but with NAC skipper LAEM Chris Fairley (Daedalus) dominant at the heart of their defence, NAC held on to their lead and were worthy winners. The Tournament was sponsored by Naafi.

□ □ □

HMS Nelson took the lead over HMS Cochrane in the 3rd minute of the Navy Cup Final when POPT Vic Jones netted from close range after CPO David Howard had failed to gather the ball. Nelson created

many chances but WEM Craig Duffield and LPT Fraser Quirke shot wide when well placed, and LMEM Gary McGovern cleared a header from MEM Robbie Campbell off the line. McGovern was again on hand to prevent a header from LWtr Paul Benson reaching the net.

Lieut. Mark Williams and POPT Eric Barratt were prominent in attack for HMS Cochrane but they could not break down a resolute Nelson defence, with the experienced WOPT Tommy Johnson controlling matters. LPT Nick Haigh scored another chance just before half time came with the score 1-0.

Nelson continued to force the pace with Campbell, Quirke and Haigh failing to make the most of good opportunities before Benson found Quirke with a good pass which allowed him to put Nelson 2-0 up. He thus achieved a unique record in having scored in every round of the competition.

And speaking of records one of the linesmen, CPO Jeff Ab-

bott was a member of the HMS Lochinvar team — the last Scottish Navy Cup winners in 1968.

RO Meikle gave Cochrane hope when he followed up a shot from Williams which MEM Jamie Clarke in the Nelson goal could only parry. But Nelson were not to be denied and put the match beyond doubt with two goals in as many minutes. Benson converted a penalty then Duffield fired home following a good pass from Campbell.

This was a fine performance by HMS Nelson who last won the cup in 1980. Vice Admiral Sir Hugo White then Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, presented the trophy to Paul Benson.

The Navy opened their season with the traditional fixture against Sussex Intermediate. An experimental Navy side found themselves a goal behind in the 40th minute, but a fine move involving POPT Steve Riley and LPT Ian Smith ended with LAEM Nigel Thwaites equalising.

Both teams played some attractive football and the deadlock was nearly broken when Riley headed against the upright following a corner from CPO George Barclay. This was to be the last scoring chance the game was drawn 1-1.

The following day the team travelled to Fenners and were held to a 0-0 draw by Cambridge University.

□ □ □

The Navy Youth team travelled to Cullompton for their first match in this season's South West Counties Championship to meet Devon who had defeated them 4-0 in the FA County Youth Cup. A much improved performance saw the Youth team win 1-0 with a goal from WEM Des White (Raleigh) on his team debut.

□ □ □

Two key members of last season's successful Navy team have been sidelined through injury. POWEA Steve Johnson



The then Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, Vice Admiral Sir Hugo White, presents the Navy Cup to LWtr Paul Benson, captain of the successful HMS Nelson team.

has a knee injury and LReg Kevin O'Donnell has sadly suffered a broken leg. All members of the RNFA Committee and the current players wish both players a speedy recovery and a rapid return to fitness.

□ □ □

Dec 2 RN v Amateur Football Alliance at Old Colfeians Ground, Lee, South London (kick off 1400); Dec 9 RN v Universities Athletic Union at Burnaby Road (1430 kick off); Dec 16 RN v Gloucester County FA in South West Counties Competition at Burnaby Road (kick off at 1930).

Best boxer award is icing on the cake for Eccles

HELD at HMS Nelson, the home of Navy boxing, the RN Novice Boxing Championships were watched by an enthusiastic crowd. As usual the Royal Marines team was very strong, as was Plymouth Command, and it was clear the team event would be contested by these two, writes *Lieut. Mark McGinley*.

As is the case every year, a lot of hard work had been put in by all concerned — not least by the boxers themselves — to make the event possible.

Bouts 1 and 2 were walk-overs and proved easy pickings for Naval Air Command; winners LAEM K. Quigley and AEM L. A. Norton. At bantam-weight WEM J. Eccles (Plymouth) made a good start, forcing WEM C. Sharma (Portsmouth) to take a standing count. Eccles was to prove too strong and the referee stopped the contest in the third.

One of the best fights of the evening was the featherweight final in which Mne. R. Golden (RM) took a unanimous win over AEM D. Gorman (Air). He set a furious pace, but Gorman worked well defensively. The bout came down to toe-to-toe action and good skills were demonstrated by both boxers. Golden took the decision after edging Gorman out on points after each round.

Overwhelming

WEM D. Blackburn (Portsmouth) also had a unanimous win. He beat Mne. E. Williams (RM) in the lightweight contest, overwhelming his man.

After a cautious start by both men in the light-welterweight final, MEM L. Harris (Plymouth) began forcing the fight early in the second round. As the pace picked up SA M. Brown (Plymouth) was unable to match Harris for power and was knocked out in the third.

Mne. S. Williams (RM) start-

ed aggressively in the welter-weight contest and was scoring well, but Mne. B. Horner (RM), being patient, stunned him with counter-punches then knocked him out, in the first round.

At light-middleweight Cpl. A. Miller (RM) was stronger than MEM A. Radcliffe (Plymouth) from the start and constantly put his man on the defensive. The referee stopped the contest in Miller's favour in Round 3.

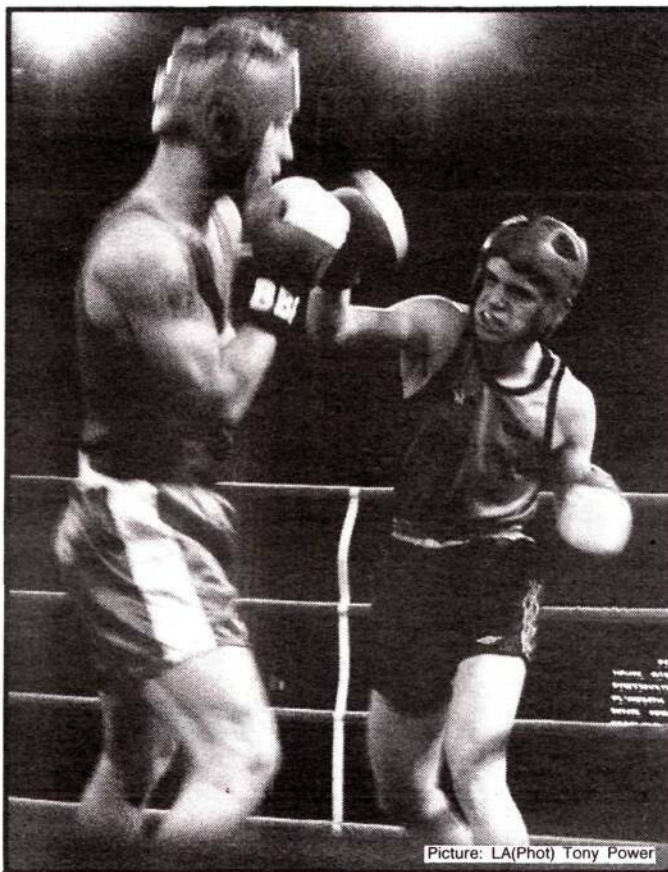
AB M. Leeman (Plymouth) showed good skills at middle-weight, but as the bout progressed the stronger AB N. Mabbutt (Plymouth) began to take over. Mabbutt took a majority decision.

At light-heavyweight Mne. R. Hurford (RM) proved too strong for Mne. J. Golding (RM), who retired from the contest after taking two standing counts. Winner: Hurford (RSC1).

The heavyweight final was a very good bout between two determined and skilled young men. Mne. L. Kerry (RM) just outpointed AB A. Kershaw (Plymouth) in each round and took a unanimous decision.

AEM E. Fitzsimons (Air) and Mne. S. Proud (RM) set a fast pace in the super-heavyweight final, but this took its toll on the former as he took two standing counts in the first round. Fitzsimons recovered well, but Proud was scoring with left jabs and proved too much for his brave opponent. Proud won unanimously.

WEM Eccles of Plymouth Command was judged to be the best boxer of the night and the



Picture: LA(Phot) Tony Power

Above: The featherweight contest between Mne. R. Golden (left) and AEM D. Gorman was a highlight of the Novice Boxing Championships. The Royal Marine was given a unanimous decision.

team trophy was won by the strong Royal Marines contingent. Final score: Royal Marines 31 Plymouth 19 Naval Air Command 15 Portsmouth 5 and Scotland 1.

HAVE A SHOT

THE Royal Navy Clay Pigeon Shooting Association was formed in 1989 to promote the sport within the Service and has since grown in strength.

The Association wants to expand further and is looking for new members. You don't have to belong to a club or be a great shot, just keen to learn. For further information contact RNCPSA Secretary Lieut.-Cdr. M. Watson, The Quality Assurance Officer at RNAS Portland ext. 2482.

VOLLEYBALL POINTS ON THE BOARD

HMS Collingwood was the venue for a gruelling weekend of pre-season training for the RN senior volleyball squad and the Trident squad. Organisers, coach Steve Glennon and his assistant, Stu Gibbs, pushed players to their limit.

First match of the season began tentatively and ended in a disappointing 3-1 defeat by Plymouth. A 3-0 win over Surrey Giants followed. In this match Taff Griffiths displayed some brilliance.

Steady rather than sparkling volleyball was produced by the RN to secure 3-0 and 3-1 vic-

tories over Bemis and Portsmouth respectively. Again Griffiths excelled, proving to his mainly Fleet Air Arm teammates that "submariners dig deeper".

Coach Glennon can have some satisfaction with the early points on the board.

US(Plymouth) cricket

UNITED Services (Plymouth) cricket team won the MOD-DEC Devon League (D Division) at their first attempt when they beat Exe Vale by 10 wickets to achieve a record number of 283 points.

Leading batsmen in the league were Cdr. Bob Love, POM A Mark Smith and WO Bruce Franklin, with Sub. Lieut. Guy Lewis and Veteran

George Raphael the leading bowlers.

Next season US (Plymouth) will be running two XIs — anyone interested in playing then, or for the indoor winter league should contact Club Captain Lieut. Simon Morris (Portland NB 6016) or Vice-Capt., Sub. Lieut. Guy Lewis at RNEC Manadon.

MURRAY PROVES HIS WORTH

HMS Nelson was the setting for the 1992 Inter-Command Basketball Championships.

Unfortunately, Plymouth failed to enter a team, but congratulations must go to Scotland, who entered despite knowing full well they would be underdogs and, what's more, played in the full spirit of the game.

Naval Air Command proved to be the strongest team and worthy winners of the title. The Royal Marines took second place, Portsmouth third and Scotland fourth.

The most valuable player award for the championships was presented to Mne. Murray (45 Cdo).

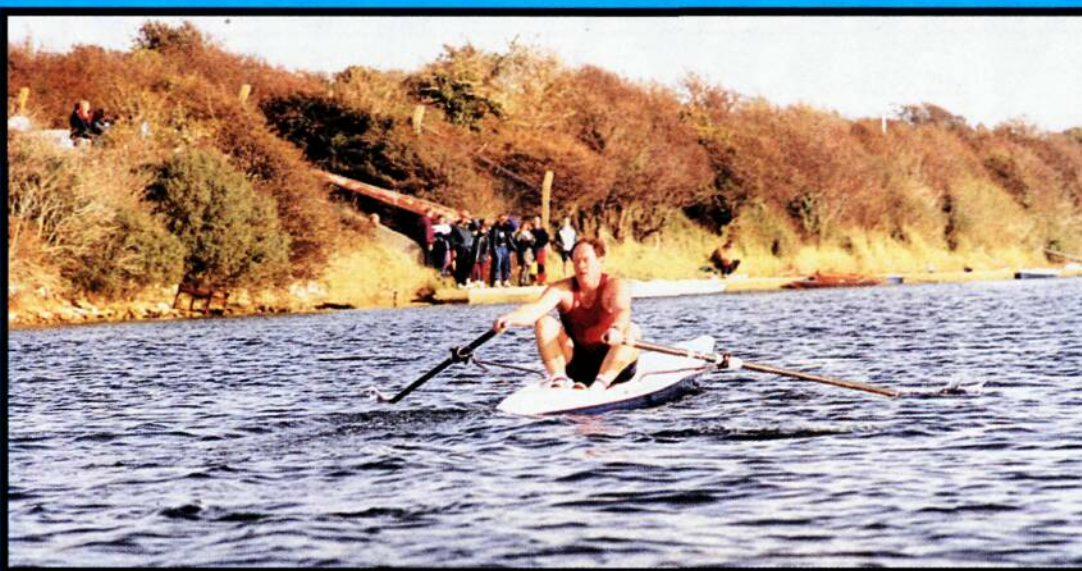
● Results: Naval Air 63 Royal Marines 38; Portsmouth 68 Scotland 34; RM 108 Scotland 38; Portsmouth 37 NA 64; Scotland 45 NA 98; Portsmouth 53 RM 55.

OARSOME ACHIEVEMENT

CDR Robert Hamilton (right), Director of Training at HMS Sultan, pictured on his way to second place in the Individual Sculls at the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Amateur Rowing Association's autumn regatta at Horsea Island, Portsmouth. First place went to Lieut. Peter Gilbert (Manadon).

A veteran oarsman rowing in open events, Cdr. Hamilton also competed in the Open Pairs and the Open 4s, the latter a winning team.

Picture: Lieut.-Cdr. Nigel Huxtable



RN and RM ARA training manager Brian Kemp aims to bring together all the Service's experienced oarsmen in a series of training weekends in preparation for the Inter Service Head of the River Race (London Tideway) and Joint Services Regatta (Peterborough).

Oarsmen interested in representing their Service should contact LAEA Brian Kemp, RN&RM ARA, 899 NAS, RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HL. Tel: 0935 840551 ext 6641, messages 6633 or 0935 706028.

Duke goes

LIEUT.-Cdr. Bob Duke retires at the end of this season from both the Royal Navy and Naval Air Command football. He's been involved with the latter for 31 years, as player, secretary and manager.

At the close of the Bambara Soccer Championships, held at HMS Heron, Bob was presented with a cut-glass whisky decanter. The Football Bambara was won by Heron, who beat HMS Daedalus 4-1 in the final. And, fittingly, NAC won this year's Inter-Command Soccer Cup in Bob's last season in charge (see soccer report opposite).

RN air station Culdrose won the Rugby Bambara, beating Daedalus 37-6 in the final at Lee-on-Solent. On completion of the game, the Chief of Staff to FONA, Cdre Chris Craig made a special presentation to CPO Paul Dunn (Heron), who has been actively involved in NAC rugby for the past 21 years as both player and administrator.

After 12 years of trying, PO Garry Addison in his last Bambara Basketball Championship has finally won a winner's medal, playing for Portland, who beat Culdrose in the final. Garry has played for the Navy as well as NAC and has also been basketball sec. for the Command for many years.

● Results of other NAC competitions are — Hockey: mens champions, Portland; ladies, Yeovilton. Badminton: mens champions, Culdrose; ladies, Culdrose; mens ind. champ, Lieut.-Cdr. G. Rowlands (Culdrose); ladies ind. champ, Wren T. Moran (Culdrose). Squash: team champions, Yeovilton; ind. champ, NA C. Robinson (Portland).

Collingwood's young victors



COACH CPO Scouse Osborne and the HMS Collingwood under-19 soccer team have every reason to smile, having won the Navy Youth Cup. Collingwood didn't concede a single goal throughout the competition. They beat HMS Mercury 11-0, HMS Daedalus 5-0 and HMS Raleigh 5-0.

Back row from left are WEA Apps Leggy Armstrong, Griff Griffin, Pat Jennings, Gee Hannah, Gary White, Cammy Cameron and Jim Bowie. Front row: WEM Pony Moore, WEM Bomber Harris, WEA App Nobby Clark, CPO T.B. Osborne, WEM Andy Spence, WEM Warren Ethridge and WEA App Scouse Powell.

Sultan belts up

OF SEVEN entries from the Solent and HMS Sultan Tae Kwon Do Club in a British Tae Kwon Do black belt dan grading event in Southampton, five achieved passes.

They were CPOMEA D. Hughes (2nd Dan), CPO Norford (1st Dan), LMEM Nicholson (1st Dan) and two juniors, Lee James (1st Poom) and Adam Hill (1st Poom).

HMS Sultan club trains Mondays and Wednesdays (1930-2100) in Sultan gym. Solent also trains Mondays and Wednesdays (1745-1930 juniors; 1930-2100 adults) at Holbrook Junior School, Wych Lane, Gosport.

Chess master

CDR Laurie Brokenshire, chairman of the Royal Navy Chess Association for six years and secretary for six years prior to that, pulled off the double at the 1992 RN Chess Championships, becoming the Service's Chess Champion and Quick Play Champion.

In the main tournament he won four of his six games, drawing one and losing one other. While seven wins and two lost games saw him to the Quick Play title — games in this category having to be completed in just five minutes!

Winter sun for skiers

SUNSHINE brought a hint of the Alps to the Royal Navy Winter Sports Association's Artificial Ski Slope Championships, held at the John Nike Centre, Marshmills, Plymouth, and contested by 130 skiers.

Neptune's foursome produced an excellent combined performance to beat CTCRM Lympstone by just 3/4 of a second and retain the Major Establishments Team Trophy.



CAPT Keith Mills RM (above) led a six man Combined Services side to victory in the team section of Coca Cola Dash for Cash, one of Australia's more infamous ski races. It involved surviving a steep mogul field, an uphill (skis to be carried!) section and a long downhill run. Four Army men and one RAF representative completed the team, which shared the \$A 2,500 team prize. On a winning roll and with confidence sky high, the six went on to win all international individual and team events in the Land-rover International Ski Championships. The team thanks Qantas Airways.

In the Ship/Minor Unit competition, the RN Elementary Flying Training School from Linton-on-Ouse triumphed for the first time ever. The team was led by Mid. Robert Moir, the current Navy Champion, who also won the Dual Slalom Knockout, beating RN Ski Team captain, Capt. Keith Mills RM, in an exciting final.

The Inter Command Dual Slalom Relay went "right down the wire", with the Royal Marines beating Plymouth in the final round after each had progressed unbeaten to this stage.

Prizes were bolstered by financial contributions and cups presented by the Kings Ski Club, which is also sponsoring the RNWSA Alpine Ski Races in Orcieres-Merlette, January 9-23.

Winning run established

DESPITE flying in elite runners from Hawaii and California, the US Marine Corps were unable to prevent the RN/RM marathon team winning the annual challenge trophy for the third year running, writes Lieut.-Cdr. Clive Lambshead.

This competition for the Victory Trophy (provided by HMS Nelson in 1978) is now in its 15th year and the RN leads the USMC by nine to six with good wins in 90, 91 and 92.

This year's race around the monuments of Washington DC attracted over 11,000 runners. The British contingent of supporters was led by Rear Admiral Paul Hoddinott (Commander British Naval Staff, Washington), who took much delight in presenting the trophy to the RN squad in front of the Iwa Jima memorial.

The race itself was run in cool conditions, hampered by a strong gusty wind resulting in the slowest ever winning time (2 hr 24 mins — Rene Guerrero — Mexican Navy). The USMC runners, including previous race winner, Sgt. Farley Simon, started strongly and at halfway were causing some concern to the Navy runners.

However, determined running in the second half of the race, particularly by Lieut. Steve Gough (Dolphin) and Cdr. Al Rich (FONA) guaranteed success.

A tremendous run by Lieut. Cdr Chris Robison (819 NAS) resulted in fourth place overall in 2 hrs 26 minutes. Other team scorers were Gough in 2 hrs 32 minutes (12th) and Rich in 2 hrs 34 minutes (23rd). For the second year running Rich was the first over-40-year-old to finish.

Remainder

The remainder of the RN/RM team ran extremely well to finish ahead of most of the USMC team. PO Andy Peacock (FOST) finished 28th in 2 hrs 36 mins, Surg. Lieut.-Cdr. Simon Sheard (Osprey) 38th in 2-38, PO Steve Cox (Ark Royal) 46th in 2-39 and Cpl Chris Cook (RM Plym) 55th in 2-40.

The USMC's top two runners regrettably had disastrous runs leaving their three scorers to finish in 2-38, 2-39 and 2-45.

In the overall competition the RN were placed second military team behind a strong Mexican Navy team for the second year running.

Marathon running continues to be one of the RN's strongest and most successful sports. Watch *Navy News* for updates on next year's events, particularly the RN Championship in April and Washington in November.

□ □ □

Lieut. Sandy Gale WRNS who is serving an exchange in Washington has pledged to run the Washington Marathon in 1993 in under three hours. It is also hoped to offer the WRNS winner of the South Coast Marathon in April the opportunity to compete in Washington.



Rear Admiral Hoddinott congratulates (l-r) Simon Sheard, Chris Robison, Steve Gough, Andy Peacock, Chris Cook, Al Rich and Steve Cox in the heart of Washington DC.

JACK

BY TUGS



Spring tenders for new ship

IT is planned to invite tenders next spring for the first of two assault ships for the Royal Navy, it was stated in answer to a Commons question.

Concerning refurbishment of the Navy's three older landing ships logistic to enable them to continue in service into the next century, on current plans it is expected work on the programme will begin next summer.

On a question about the fleet replenishment ship RFA Fort Victoria, which had an original in-service date of 1990, it was stated that because of problems experienced by the contractor, it was now forecast that the ship would be fully accepted into service next year.

Duke in class of his own

THE DUKE of York is to be appointed as commanding officer of HMS Cottesmore, the Hunt-class mine counter-measures vessel, based at Portsmouth with the Second MCM Squadron.

The Duke, a Lieut.-Commander, is currently studying at the Army Staff College at Camberley, and he will be taking up his new appointment in April next year.

His last sea-going appointment was in HMS Campbelltown as ship's flight commander.

JUNO PAYS OFF

THE Leander class frigate HMS Juno decommissions at Portsmouth early this month after an RN career of 25 years.

With armament removed, she has in recent years been used as a training ship for navigation and engineering.

Pay: 1.5 p.c. — and that's your lot!

MEMBERS of the Services whose pay is normally recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body will receive an increase of 1.5 per cent from April 1 next year.

Items of additional pay which normally rise in line with the military salary will be increased by the same percentage.

Increases in food and accommodation charges will be held to 1.5 per cent.

The announcement came as part of the Government's revised cash plans for the defence budget, and the Prime Minister has written to the AFPRB asking them not to make recommendations concerning increases in the military salary in 1993-94.

It was, however, stated that the Government wished the AFPRB to resume its full role next year, operating on the same basis as in the past.

Meanwhile, the Pay Review Body continues work on its current report, expected to be presented early in 1993 — but without any pay recommendations.

Implementation of present plans for restructuring and reorganisation of defence front-line and support services will go ahead to the current timetable.

The new plans for defence expenditure are: 1993-94, £23,520 million; 1994-95, £23,750 million; 1995-96, £23,220 million.

These figures represent reductions of £570 million in 1993-94 and £480 million in 1994-95 on the figures agreed last year.

The Government said a substantial part of the savings would result from pay restraint, which would apply to the whole of the public sector.

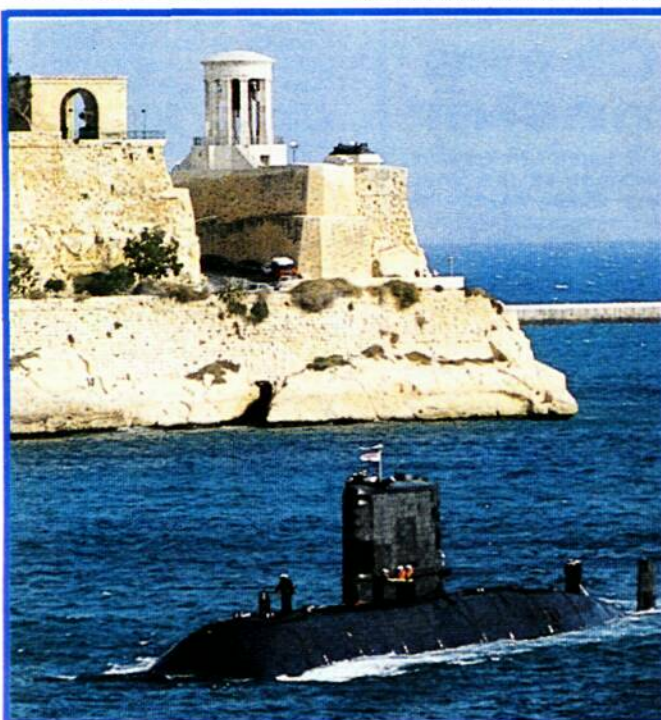
It has also been announced that the RN officer bonus scheme, introduced in April 1991 to encourage officers in their mid '20s and early '30s to stay in the Service is, with AFPRB approval, to be withdrawn after Nov. 30 1993.

This results from reduced manpower requirements and in the light of current good retention figures.

However, officers who quali-

fied for and claimed the first bonus up to and including Nov. 30 1993 will be granted reserved rights to receive the second bonus on promotion to lieutenant-commander/captain RM, provided they fulfil all the present qualifications.

Withdrawal of the bonuses does not preclude application to the AFPRB in the future for similar targetted measures should circumstances change.



Ursula returns to her wartime base

HMS URSULA, is pictured entering Grand Harbour, Valetta, Malta, passing the Siege Bell Tower, which was dedicated by the Queen earlier this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to the island.

The first Royal Navy submarine to visit Malta for 15 years

(her predecessor was based there during the Second World War). HMS Ursula berthed at Pinto Wharf and attracted many enthusiastic local visitors during her six-day stay. (See also page 2).

Second phase redundancy selections

AS Navy News went to press, arrangements were being finalised for notifying on an individual basis people selected in Phase 2 of the Navy's redundancy programme.

Applications from people in various categories were invited earlier in the year, aimed to minimise compulsory redundancies, although in the selection procedure category requirements and years of service have a bearing.

Redundancy boards met during the period September-November, and those selected for redundancy were due to be informed on or about Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Numbers involved were put at about 1,100, involving 450 or more officers and a total of about 700 ratings.

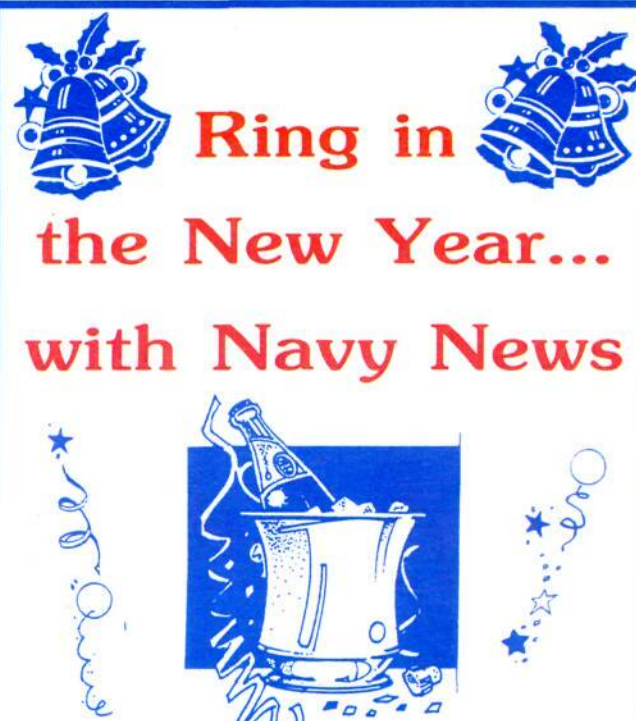
Naval services set for market testing

A FOUR-year programme of market testing of MOD activities which cost about £1,200 million annually has been announced.

In the naval area, activities covered will include elements of the RN Supply and Transport Service covering torpedo processing, motor transport, information technology support, and major stores depots; Naval Aircraft Repair Organisation helicopter engine repair; elements of naval flying

training; Fleet Air Arm support; naval engineering services; and property management.

As well as Army and RAF areas to be covered, will be a number of central functions and of Procurement Executive activities.



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